

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 45

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2011

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Which would you rather have a part-time legislature or reduce by half number of representatives from Saipan?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Killer Quake

A powerful earthquake collapsed buildings at the height of a busy workday in New Zealand's city of Christchurch, killing at least 65 people.

ASIA...PAGE 16



Defiant Gadhafi

Deep rifts opened in Moammar Gadhafi's regime, with Libyan government officials at home and abroad resigning.

WORLD...PAGE 17



Swift a Hit

Wrapping up the Asian leg of her world tour, Taylor Swift is relishing her growing international appeal.

LIFE & STYLE...PAGE 21

FROM \$132M IN 2011

Inos: CNMI budget could be down to \$120M in FY 2012

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the projected fiscal year 2012 budget could be down to \$120 million, a \$12-million drop from the FY 2011 budget of \$132 million as the economy continues to shrink.

- Agency restructuring, work hour cuts, manpower reduction eyed
- Froilan says budget could go down to \$100M

See INOS on Page 4



Senate confirms 3 governor's appointees to CPA, Civil Service boards

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate confirmed three of the governor's appointees to the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors and the Civil Service Commission.

The full Senate confirmation came after the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations chaired by Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) recommended that the three appointees be confirmed.

See SENATE on Page 4



Barry Toves, third from left, joins senators for a group photo right after the full Senate confirmed Toves' reappointment to serve on the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors representing Rota, at a Senate session yesterday afternoon. Only Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Saipan) was absent at yesterday's session, wherein the Senate also confirmed Joe Lifofoi's reappointment to the CPA board, and Eric Plinske to the Civil Service Commission.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Only two of three Saipan power plants operational

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. disclosed yesterday that only two of the three power plants on Saipan are producing electricity and as of yesterday are generating only 46.60 megawatts.

Based on the agency's power generation status as of Feb. 22, power plant 2 failed to generate electricity due to its failed generator and overhaul.

There are four diesel engines at power plant 2, which are designed to produce 2.5 MW each or 10MW in total. CUC disclosed that engine No. 1 was down because of generator issue, while engine No. 2 is undergoing overhaul. Both engine Nos. 4 and 5 are being used in the re-routing of fuel pipeline.

Saipan has three power plants, recording 18 diesel engines.

CUC reported that in power

See ONLY on Page 4



Malae

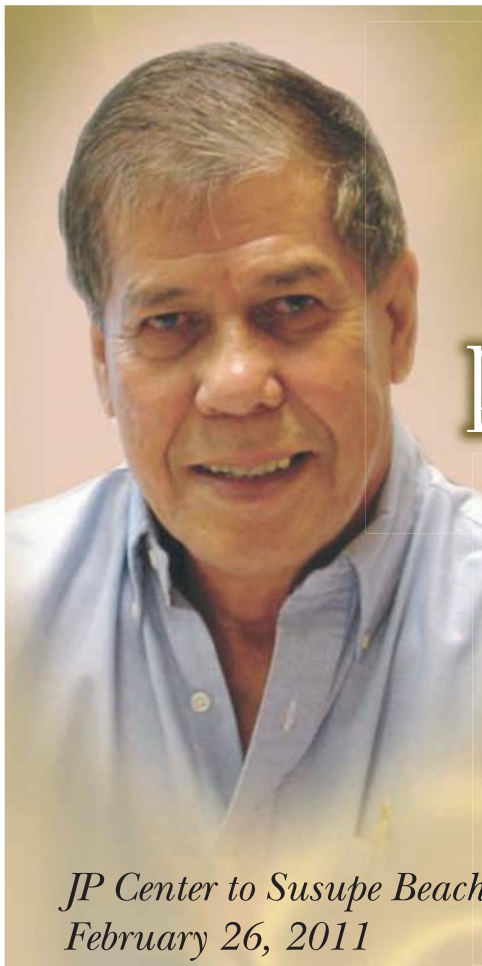
MAKING THE CNMI PROUD

Abigail Evangelista, third from right, and her boyfriend James Parker gave a special visit to the CNMI Senate led by president Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) yesterday afternoon. Evangelista, of Tinian, is a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army and currently works for the White House Communications Agency in Washington, D.C. as executive assistant to the commander, while Parker is a police officer in the Pentagon. Senators took turns commending Evangelista for her achievements and for making the CNMI proud.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Delayed payroll for non-critical service employees. PAGE 2
Counsel for NMC, regents apologizes for filing long motions. PAGE 3



3rd Annual A Walk to Remember in honor of "JP" John Pangelinan

*JP Center to Susupe Beach Park
February 26, 2011*

*Donation of \$5 includes free t-shirt
Proceeds will benefit the March Against Cancer 2011.*

- Registration is at 5:00 am
- Walk begins immediately upon registration
- Shuttle bus will be provided to return to Garapan
- Refreshments and entertainment provided at the park
- Two water stations along the route



To register in advance please call 233-8080
or email becky_tenorio@tanholdings.com

Local

Delayed payroll for non-critical service employees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Only government employees holding critical service positions will get their paychecks on time tomorrow, acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday.

Those in non-critical service positions will receive their paychecks next week because of cash shortage.

This comes after having the first timely payroll for 2011

on Feb. 10, mainly because of enough cash collection coming from tax payments.

Inos also said the Public School System has been getting its payroll timely.

Besides doctors, nurses, police officers, corrections officers and firefighters, among other critical service employees, federal-funded and PSS employees have also been timely receiving their paychecks.

This has not been the case for

non-critical service employees who have seen delayed payrolls for at least nine times since June 2010. This week will be the 10th time they won't get paid on time.

The government needs to come up with some \$4 million to meet payroll every two weeks.

Most of those affected by delayed payroll are also subject to a 16-hour cut per payroll and unpaid holidays in fiscal year 2011.

Hawaii law firm settles lawsuit of late vice speaker's grandkids

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
fergie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Hawaii-based law firm has settled the lawsuit filed by the grandchildren of the late Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas, who alleged failed to get anything from the \$1.9 million settlement in a previous lawsuit against the estate of the late business tycoon Larry Lee Hillblom.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Mark W. Bennett yesterday issued an order, canceling pretrial conference and jury trial in the Mafnas grandchildren's lawsuit.

Bennett presided over a settlement conference on Jan. 27, 2011 in Sioux City, Iowa.

"The parties did reach a settlement," the judge said in the order.

Therefore, he said, any pending motions are denied as moot and that all pretrial and other deadlines are stayed.

The judge ordered the parties in the lawsuit to file until March 14, 2011 the final settlement and dismissal papers.

Jess Mafnas, Franklin Mafnas, Britney Mafnas, and Blas Mafnas Jr., sued Guam-based attorney Peter F. Perez and the Hawaii-based law firm of Cronin, Friend, Kekina, and Fairbanks, and Hawaii attorney Allen K. Williams.

The grandchildren, through counsels William R. Satterberg Jr. and Matthew T. Gregory, asked the federal court to pay each of them in excess of \$375,000 in damages.

Last year, Perez and settled

the lawsuit for \$70,000. The parties agreed that the payment is not to be construed as an admission of Perez's liability.

Jesus Mafnas Sr. was killed in 1995 in a crash while aboard an aircraft being piloted by Hillblom.

As a consequence of the crash, the then minor plaintiffs pursued a wrongful death lawsuit in federal court against the Hillblom estate.

Perez, Williams, and the Cronin law firm, acted as counsels for several plaintiffs consisting of Jesus Mafnas Sr.'s then minor grandchildren and other parties. Included as plaintiffs in that lawsuit were the wife of the then Vice Speaker and his children.

The lawsuit was settled, but the grandchildren claimed they did not get any compensation.



Some restrictions apply.
See store for details.



GET EVEN MORE VALUE WITH SHELL LUCKY 7!

Redeem your Shell Lucky 7 Passport and choose from these great rewards:

-  **\$7 FREE Fuel;**
-  **\$7 FREE C-Store purchases;**
-  **600 Miles from Delta SkyMiles®; OR**
(during promo period)
-  **\$10 IT&E Prepaid Wireless Phone Card!**

Get Lucky 7 stamps with your cash purchase every time you gas at Shell and Double Stamps when you buy Shell V-Power® Premium Gasoline.

Don't delay. Enter today!

made to move 

Shell Licensee



Counsel for NMC, regents apologizes for filing long motions

The counsel for the Northern Marianas College and its former and current regents have apologized to the federal court for exceeding the page limit in filing motions for summary judgment in the lawsuit involving former NMC president Carmen Fernandez.

Attorney Michael W. Dotts, counsel for defendants NMC and former regents Janet King and Maria "Paz" Castro Younis and current regents Andrew L. Orsini and Frank Rabauliman, said he should have recognized that he was exceeding the page limit by organizing the motions in the way

he did and should have sought approval from the court.

"There was no intent, however, to evade the page limit rule," said Dotts in his declaration filed on Friday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Dotts filed the declaration in support of defendants' motion to exceed page limit for memorandum in support of motion for summary judgment.

The lawyer said the subjects covered by the motions for summary judgment are complicated.

"As such, defendants assert exceeding the page limit is

necessary to properly present a combined motion," he said.

Dotts requested the court to allow them file a single memorandum in support of a combined motion not to exceed 60 pages.

Fernandez did not object to defendants exceeding the page limit. She also signed an agreement with defendants to allow her to exceed too the page limit on the opposition.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood on Friday denied defendants' three separate motions for summary judgment and

Fernandez's motion to dismiss.

The judge noted that the defendants' supporting memoranda in the motions run to 63 pages. She pointed out that briefs or memoranda supporting or opposing a motion should not exceed 25 pages.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Fernandez's motion on the other hand, is untimely since she has already answered the counterclaims

that she attacks in the motion.

The judge, however, allowed the to re-file their revised motions on or before March 3, 2011.

Fernandez is suing NMC, former regents Janet King and Maria Castro "Paz" Younis, and sitting regents Andrew L. Orsini and Frank Rabauliman for allegedly depriving her of her good name and property, conspiracy, defamation, and conspiracy to

defame her. She is also suing NMC for wrongful termination and breach of contract.

In its counter lawsuit, NMC is suing Fernandez for breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty. NMC alleged that Fernandez failed to follow proper procedures in changing some student grades, in contravention of NMC's grade change policy. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Cheating argument leads to domestic violence

An argument over cheating resulted to a domestic violence at a residence in Chalan Kanoa last Wednesday early morning.

Donny John Swei, 38, was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a \$3,500 cash bail for Swei's temporary release.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that last Wednesday, Feb. 16 between 1am to 2am, Swei and his girlfriend were arguing outside her residence.

The girlfriend accused Swei of cheating on her with another woman.

The victim told Swei to leave her residence, but he ignored and walked into the house.

The victim pushed the defendant as she told him to leave. The defendant pushed back resulting to a struggle in the bedroom.

Swei allegedly used his right arm and pinned hard the victim's head on the left side on the bed. The victim started screaming.

The victim's female friend came and pulled the defendant away. Swei ran out the front door. The victim called the police.

Patrol officers later spotted Swei running near the Smile Poker in Chalan Kanoa where they arrested him. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



PIZZA

We've Been Making Pizza On Saipan Since 1989

Buy a Large - Get a FREE Medium (single topping) No Limit

Try Our Delicious Burgers - Reubens - Chicken & Salads

Beach Road - Garapan
234-3976

ARMATECH

LED Lightings For Residential, Commercial, Hotels & Industrial Applications.

Tel: 234-8895 • Mobile: 287-5525/898-5943

DIABETES FACT: Early Diagnosis Saves Lives and Your Eyes!



The American Diabetes Association reports that nearly 24 million children and adults in the United States have diabetes, and almost 57 million people have pre-diabetes. That is why it is so important to be aware of some of the risk factors: being overweight, having high blood pressure and/or high cholesterol, a family history of the

disease, as well as many others.

The ADA has also estimated that less than 1/3 of diabetic patients are getting a dilated eye exam every year, even though diabetes is the leading cause of blindness. Please don't take a chance with something as precious as your eyesight.

We're here to help and to answer your questions, whether simple or complicated.



HARDT EYE CLINIC

235-2030

Yes, we accept your insurance—All major insurance plans accepted.

Whether you have an emergency, need a comprehensive eye exam or just have a simple question, we're here to help!



Miller Family on Special! Every Thursday

Godfather's Bar WHERE EVERYBODY IS FAMILY
GARAPAN'S PARTY BAR!

www.godfathersbar.com



New Kikbak Band
Every Thursday

House approves 2% excise tax on Energy Star items

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidEE_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

By a vote of 13-6, the House of Representatives passed yesterday a bill imposing a 2 percent excise tax on items bearing Energy Star certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Energy Star is an international standard for energy efficient consumer products such as computers and peripherals, kitchen appliances and buildings. They generally use 20 percent to 30 percent less energy than federal standards require.

House Bill 17-79, introduced by floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), now goes to

the Senate for action.

Rep. Frank Cruz (R-Saipan), who was one of the six who voted against the bill, said this is not the right time to burden consumers who would have to shoulder the increased costs associated with the 2 percent tax.

"This is like adding fuel to the fire," Dela Cruz said during the House session.

He said it's as if the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power rates are enough, here comes another measure that he said will make it costly for consumers to use energy-efficient products supposedly to cut power bills. Dela Cruz said he

would like to see CUC invest on alternative energy sources.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said the Division of Customs Services is supporting the 2 percent excise tax on Energy Star products, knowing

the volume of these items that are tax-exempt coming into the CNMI.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) asked whether a cost-benefit analysis was done on the bill, and questioned the absence of a committee report, while Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) said one way to discourage consumers from using cheaper but not energy-efficient products is to tax



Camacho

these products more.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) asked his colleagues to also consider that somebody, which is the government, has to pay for the proper disposal of these products such as the cost of bringing them to the landfill. He said this could be done by imposing a tax on these products.

When voting came, Dela Cruz, Tebuteb, Yumul, Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) and Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) voted "no." Absent at the session was House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan).

The remaining 13 voted in support of the bill.

Applications open for 2011 BWOY scholarships

First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business invite students to apply for the 2011 First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business Businesswoman of the Year scholarships for the fall 2011 or spring 2012 semesters. The program provides scholarships for student at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College. Graduating seniors from Guam's and the CNMI's high schools who are enrolling in

the islands' tertiary institutions are invited to apply as well.

Application forms will be made available to all high school senior counselors' and principals' offices and will be available at the financial aid offices of all three tertiary institutions, at the First Hawaiian Bank branches, and the Glimpses of Guam office. Deadline for completed applications is July 31, 2011. **(PR)**

Military training on FDM, Warning Area-517

The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla from Feb. 21-25, 9am-7:30pm

The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the

area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. **(PR)**

INOS

From Page 1

The estimated \$120 million in the preliminary budget plan is the amount available for government operations.

Inos, who presided over a Cabinet meeting yesterday morning, reminded agency heads of the Feb. 28 deadline for submitting their individual agency budgets.

This will give the administration about a month to review all the agency submissions before the Executive Branch submits its budget plan to the Legislature on or before the April 1 deadline.

Work hour cuts, restructuring

Inos said the \$12 million decrease in budget means a continuation of the ongoing work hour cuts per pay period.

However, at this time, he said there's no telling whether the 16-hour work cuts per pay period will remain or will increase to 20 or more hours.

Inos said there will also be restructuring in some govern-

ment agencies, particularly the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the Department of Public Safety which were a subject of independent desk audits.

He said the restructuring at DCCA and DPS will be fully implemented by Oct. 1, but a transition period will begin as early as March.

An independent desk audit found that DCCA, along with DPS, is overstaffed and has employees with overlapping functions. Among other recommendations is to move DCCA's Juvenile Detention Facility to the Department of Corrections, and moving DCCA's Juvenile Probation Unit to the Superior Court.

The Virginia-based independent firm Management Analysis Inc. also recommended moving the DCCA Sports and Recreation functions to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association.

Inos also said this time around, the number of government personnel may have to be cut, or compensation packages may have to be reduced in addition to work hour cuts.

"Is it more hours (cut) or same hours and less people? Or same hours, same people, but lower compensation packages? It's just a matter of different mix, that is the challenge," he said.

Inos said the up to \$6.2 million tour agents incentive program is still on a trial period, so the revenue that could be generated by this so-called revenue-generating program is still not factored in the estimated \$120 million budget.

'It must be less than that'

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), a former governor and former speaker, said yesterday that the \$120 million is "too optimistic."

Tenorio cited the Fitial administration's earlier statements that for the first quarter of FY 2011 alone, it had some \$6 million deficit. He said if that will be the same level of deficit in the three remaining quarters, then that's already \$24 million.

"So if you are looking at a \$24 million deficit out of the \$132 million budget in FY 2011, then or you to have a balanced budget in 2012 you may have to go down to a bud-

get of \$108 or less," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

He, however, said that the \$6 million deficit in the first quarter may not be the same for the other three succeeding quarters. If that is the case, he said the \$120 million projected budget could just be right.

Tenorio said the tourism incentive program may not perform well as expected to generate additional revenue for the CNMI.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), chair of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, said the panel would like to see most recent revenue and spending reports from the Department of Finance.

'No choice but to let go of people'

Tenorio said many U.S. states facing fiscal crisis have reduced or will reduce the number of their public sector employees.

He said the CNMI has no choice but to let go of government employees to be able to balance the budget.

"What the CNMI will do is nothing new because many states are doing it, to be able

to live within their means," he said.

Tenorio said he would like to hear from the Senate regarding its plan to help balance the budget.

The former speaker said he will no longer push for the legalization of casino operation on Saipan, though he has always believed that "casinos will solve all our fiscal problems."

"But I am not pushing for casino anymore. If they don't want it, it's alright with me," he added.

Hoping for the best

Inos, a former Finance secretary, said the administration hopes that the Legislature will immediately act on the administration's budget submission to prevent the partial government shutdown when no budget was passed before the start of FY 2011 on Oct. 1, 2010.

"That's a painful lesson for everyone. I hope they will immediately work on the budget. They also have a deadline," Inos said.

The House and the Senate were deadlocked on the FY 2011 proposed budget because

of disagreements on austerity measures, especially the 16-hour work hour cuts.

The deadlock went on way past the Sept. 30 deadline to pass a budget, resulting in a partial government shutdown in which over 1,400 government employees were temporarily out of job for more than a week.

Inos will be the acting governor while Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is on official trip to Washington, D.C. and while on medical leave in California. Fitial left Saipan yesterday, along with first lady Josie Fitial, special assistant for management and budget Virginia Villagomez, and press secretary Angel Demapan.

As of yesterday, it's not yet known what the government's projected gross budgetary resources for FY 2012, but only the estimated \$120 million available for appropriations.

In FY 2011, the estimated gross budgetary resource was \$149.371 million. Of this amount, \$132.565 million was available for appropriations. The rest are for debt service or bond payments and other obligations, amounting to \$16.806 million.

SENATE

From Page 1

By a vote of 8-0, the Senate confirmed the reappointment of Joe Lifofoi and Barry Toves to the CPA board, seven days after a public hearing on their reappointments.

Lifofoi, who served as

chairman for years, represents Saipan on the CPA board, while Toves represents Rota. Lifofoi, who served as House speaker in the 5th Legislature, is currently the chairman of the United Micronesia Development Association Inc., and is also the Republic of Palau's honorary consul general to the CNMI.

Toves was in the Senate gallery during the session yesterday, along with CPA management and staff led by CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero. Toves thanked all who supported his reappointment. Lifofoi, however, was off-island.

The Senate also confirmed the governor's appointment

of Eric Plinske to serve on the Civil Service Commission.

The confirmation came only a few hours after the EAGI Committee held a public hearing on Plinske's appointment.

Cruz said during the public hearing that the lack of quorum on the Civil Service Commission has resulted in lack of decisions on issues such as

administrative procedures for grievances at the Department of Public Safety, for example.

The EAGI chairman also called on the commission to develop a policy that will require desk audits on all government agencies—and not only the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and DPS.

Cruz said the desk audit would determine which positions could be merged because of similar functions which would promote efficiency and reduce costs.

So far, the Senate EAGI Committee has recommended the confirmation of the governor's appointees, except for Jerry Tan.

ONLY

From Page 1

plant 1, six of the eight engines are operational producing a total of 36MW as of yesterday. Failed engines included engine No. 5 which needs overhaul of turbocharger and engine No. 8 which is undergoing foundation repair and overhaul at present.

Power plant 1 was designed to produce 71.70MW compared to what is currently available which is 36MW. Functioning diesel engines in power plant

1 included engines Nos. 1, 2, 3 with available 6MW each; engine No. 6 and 7 with 8MW and 10MW available, respectively.

In power plant 4, only one of the seven engines is non-operational because its crankshaft is being repair—engine No. 2 which is designed to produce 2.5MW. The six operational engines produce 10.60MW at present. Power plant 4 is designed to generate 14.50MW.

CUC disclosed yesterday that peak load was noted on June 3, 2010 with 44.90 MW.

With the current 46.60MW

available for the island, standby power or reserve electricity is 10MW as of yesterday.

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae told yesterday to *Saipan Tribune* that power needs of Saipan customers have lowered due to the present cool weather.

"No problem sustaining the demand as you put it. This is the cool time of the year and the demand is down. Also, the high cost of fuel translates to higher LEAC [levelized energy adjustment clause] and the awareness of customers is keeping demand

down," he said.

Effective last month, a new power rate was enacted by the Public Utilities Commission to cope with the rising cost of fuel. Due to this increase, people became cautious on consuming power and conserving energy in their homes and offices.

Malae described power plant 1 as the most important power facility where numerous projects are ongoing.

"We have numerous ongoing projects there—funded by the ARRA, CIP, and CUC as well as manufacturer tests," he admitted.

For example, Malae said a manufacturer is testing an equipment over a month period that will improve fuel consumption efficiency. Another company, he added, will be testing a fuel treatment chemical next month.

CUC is also scheduled to test a device that "cleans up" power quality.

It was earlier disclosed that CUC needs to raise \$4.25 million in order to complete the needed overhaul for all its failed engines. Saipan, it was predicted, could soon go back to the days of frequent power out-

ages if the scheduled overhaul of power engines is delayed any further.

Power generation on island, CUC earlier confirmed, is on the course to crash because of the stalled overhaul.

Saipan Tribune learned that there are five total engines that need immediate overhaul and other repairs within the next 12 months and which cost will total to \$4.2 million, based on CUC's assessment. The lack of funds to buy needed engine parts was cited by CUC as the major reason for the delayed overhaul.

15 teams to participate in PSS' first-ever recipe contest

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System—in collaboration with the Northern Marianas College CREES program, Public Health Women Infant Clinic, and Commonwealth Cancer Association—will conduct the island's first-ever recipe contest next month as part of the national Nutrition Month celebration.

PSS nutritionist Hee Jae Lee yesterday said 15 teams from 13 public and private schools have registered for the event which is slated on March 12, tentatively at Pacific Islands Club.

This year's theme for national nutrition month is "Eat Right with Color."

Lee said participants to the event are the top winners in the recently concluded school-level recipe competitions.

She explained that because the event is about the students' recipes, the competition will focus on food presentation rather than cooking on the spot.

Lee said there are three teams that will compete in each five categories. Maximum number of participants per team is 3.

For grades 1 to 3, the category is healthy snacks where recipes must present at least two differ-

ent colors of fruits/vegetables; at least one item on the recipe must be locally grown produce; must be low to moderate in sugar and fat content; and recipe must be age-appropriate for preparation and for consumption.

For grades 4 to 6, the competition's category is salad which requires to present at least five different colors of fruits/vegetables; two items must be locally grown produce; with low to moderate in sugar, fat, and sodium content; and must also be age-appropriate for preparation.

The contest's third category for 7 to 8 graders is for appetizer or finger food; main entrée for grades 9-12; and vegetarian entrée for 7 to 12 graders.

For main entrée dish, recipe should consist of protein and starch side dish; must have at least three different colors of fruits/vegetables; two items must be locally grown produce; and recipe must be low to moderate in sugar, fat, and sodium content also.

For vegetarian entrée, recipe should consist of non-meat/fish/egg protein and starch side dish, at least three different colors of fruits/vegetables, must have items that are locally grown produce, and has low to moderate in sugar, fat, and sodium content.

Lee is inviting the public to the exciting event which objective is to promote healthy food.

"This is important because we

need to eat variety of fruits and vegetables to ensure that we get variety of nutrients in our body. We want to teach the students

and the public that adding more colors to your plates is easy and healthy," she said yesterday.

Lee said winning recipes in

the school-level competitions will be screened by the committee where it will select the finalists for the event.

Restaurants, caterers urged take part in Nutrition Month campaign

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Nutrition Month Committee is encouraging all restaurants and catering services to take part in a campaign to promote a nutritious and healthy diet among community members.

Eat Right with Color—Healthy Lunches endorses the preparation of healthy and colorful lunch options in celebration of the National Nutrition Month in March.

National Nutrition Month

is an annual nutrition education campaign sponsored by the American Dietetic Association to promote informed food choices and sound eating and physical activity habits.

This year's theme is "Eat Right with Color."

The promotion also aims to educate the community about a wide array of fruits and vegetables that can add flavor, color, and nourishment to their plates.

Tina Sablan, program manager for Commonwealth Cancer Association, said the CNMI

Nutrition Month Committee has lined up different activities to mark the occasion, including the Eat Right with Color—Healthy Lunches promotion.

According to Sablan, participating restaurants and catering services will have their healthy lunches highlighted in a series of nutrition education columns to be published in local newspapers, on CCA's website and Facebook page.

Delicious and healthy lunches will feature at least three different fruits and vegetables,

with at least one from a local source, as well as whole grains or starchy vegetables such as sweet potatoes, taro, or tapioca, said Sablan.

Sablan added that low-salt and low-sugar meals are encouraged with the use of monosodium glutamate or MSG is discouraged.

For more information about the Eat Right with Color campaign, contact committee chair Hee Jae Lee at 237-3050. For more information about the National Nutrition Month, visit www.eatright.org.

Red Cross gearing up for month of March activities

The NMI Chapter announces a series of events to kick off Red Cross Month in March. The month will begin with a High School Youth Dance on March 4 and 5 as well as a Super CPR Training on March 5. There will be disaster services preparedness and response training as well as outreach information booths at various community events.

The monthlong activities will finish with the 25th Annual Red Cross Walkathon on April 9. The Coke-Subway-Foremost-Scoops Glimpses Group of Companies will again be donating refreshments and financial support. For more information about the Red Cross and how to get involved, contact the NMI Chapter at 234-3459. (ARC)

New Extended Hours!



*Now Open
All Day
Saturday*

8:00am to 5:00pm

- One-Hour Glasses
- Contacts
- Medical Eye Care
- Surgery & Vision Saving Procedures

235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan

Most Insurance Accepted
Walk-ins welcome



Marianas Eye Institute

"Where Technology Meets Talent"

www.MarianasEye.com

Toyota Gas Giveaway!

Up to
\$1,000
of free gas!



2011 TACOMA

Saipan's Most Dependable Truck!

- Reliable work truck!
- Built strong and comfortable!
- Never Rust Composite bed!
- 18 Variations!



2011 HIGHLANDER

Smooth and Capable!

- 4 cylinder engine!
- Comfortable seating for 7 Passengers!
- Fuel efficient!
- Remote keyless entry!



Redesigned

2011 COROLLA

Benchmark of Value!

- 4-wheel anti-lock brake system (ABS) with electronic brake force distribution (EBD) and brake assist!
- Vehicle stability control and traction control!
- 12.3 cubic feet of Trunk Space!



MICROL CORPORATION

Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com

TOYOTA

*OAC. Conditions apply. \$1000 free gasoline on select Tacomas. \$500 free gasoline on select Corollas and Highlanders. See dealer for details.

Convicted murderer Appleby, 3 other inmates granted parole

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Parole has granted parole to four inmates, including Shawn Cabrera Appleby, a 31-year-old man who was convicted for the robbery-murder of a grocery owner in 1996 and for bolting out of prison in 1999.

Chief of Parole Joseph T. Guerrero told the media yesterday that aside from Appleby, also granted parole during Thursday's hearing at the Department of Corrections were Bonifacio M. Camacho, Sayuri A. Paulis, and Jesus M. Babauta.

Guerrero said the board conditionally granted parole to Jin Ming

Nan and Loreto H. Rodriguez.

Guerrero said by condition means that Nan and Rodriguez, both nonresidents, are to remain in the Department of Corrections until such time that deportation arrangement with ICE are confirmed for immediate departure from the CNMI.

BOP, however, denied parole to Sanito Estrera, a 65-year-old man who was in jail since June 2008 after he was arrested for sexually abusing a 5-year-old girl at a residence in Chalan Kanoa.

Estrera pleaded guilty sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree and was subsequently sentenced in March 2009 to six years in prison.

Parole Chief Guerrero said

the board based their decisions on the testimonies of the applicants, witness for or against, victim(s), and prosecutor.

"All inmates released on parole are under intensive supervision with stringent parole conditions that they must comply," he said.

Guerrero said Nan and Rodriguez, who are awaiting deportation, are exempted from stringent parole conditions as they will be unsupervised.

According to court records, Appleby was among five persons who were charged and subsequently convicted over the robbery-murder of Korean businessman Byung Ok Suh on Nov. 11, 1996 inside Chalan Market in San Antonio.

At the time, Appleby was only 16 years old. He was arrested on Dec. 4, 1996 and pleaded guilty to first degree murder in February 1997. In March 1997, the Superior Court sentenced him to 40 years in jail, with a minimum of 10 years to be served.

In October 1999, Appleby and two other inmates escaped from DOC. The following month, he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one more year in prison on top of his 40-year sentence.

Camacho pleaded guilty to the offense of marriage fraud and conceded the probation violation in three previous criminal cases in 2009. The court sen-

tenced him in May 2009 to three years in prison.

Judge David Wiseman noted that the defendant has been a frequent visitor to the criminal courts and has a "long and busy" criminal history. The judge then counted at least 17 criminal cases filed against Camacho since 2003.

Paulis was sentenced in May 2010 to an 18-month prison for vehicular homicide. The court allowed her to start serving the jail term on Aug. 1, 2010. She was the driver of a pickup truck that struck and killed a pedestrian in Kagman on the evening of Aug. 21, 2009.

Babauta was sentenced to eight months in jail, with credit for the time he already served, for forgery, and theft by unlawful taking. He was also sentenced in federal court to four months in March 2010 for mail fraud.

Nan was sentenced in May 2008 to 10 years in jail for assault with a dangerous weapon over the stabbing and injuring a businessman in February 2007.

Rodriguez pleaded guilty last year to sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. He was sentenced to two years in prison with credit for 27 days he already served.

FOR SERIOUS VIOLATION OF HEALTH, SANITATION STANDARDS BEH closes 12 food establishments in 1Q

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health closed 12 food establishments after finding them in serious violation of health and sanitation standards in the first quarter of the fiscal year—from October to January 2011.

These establishments were ordered shut down until all citations are rectified and addressed in a timely manner.

Saipan Tribune learned that every month, BEH conducted sanitary inspections on retails, eating and drinking establishments to monitor their compliance to the health requirements and sanitation standards.

These establishments are given rates ranging from A to C, while issued closure order to serious violators.

During the first four months of the fiscal year, BEH inspected a total of 126 establishments of which 98 were given "A" rating; 14 received "B" rating; two were provided "C"; while 12 were found in serious violation of the standards and were ordered closed.

In October 2010, BEH graded 25 stores with the highest rate of "A" while four establishments were noted given "B" and one company received "C" rating. Ordered closed that month were five establishments including MAB 123, Juvy's Catering, LaVida Catering, JG Sablan Water & Ice, and Our Daily Bread Bakery.

In November last year, 28 stores were rated "A" by BEH; five received "B" rating; while three were ordered closed due

to serious health citations. These included Our Daily Bread Bakery, Uni Pharm Drug Store, and the store of Belinda Figer. Meantime, no establishment was rated "C" in the said month.

In December 2010, BEH inspected 25 establishments and 19 got the highest rating; two received "B" rating; one establishment got "C"; and three stores were ordered closed including Mr. & Mrs. Francisco Lazaga catering, HE 3027 water delivery, and DJ Fish vendor.

For January 2011, 26 companies were rated "A"; three got "B"; and only one firm was ordered closed—10/10 Restaurant.

BEH official explained yesterday that closure orders were issued to 12 establishments, indicating specific timeframes they need to correct their deficiencies and violations. Their reopening, BEH added, depends on the gravity and nature of the violations they committed. As an example, an establishment that needs to replace certain equipment may take longer than a week or a month compared to other corrective measures.

BEH said majority of these 12 establishments reopened business after fully complying with the health and sanitation standards.

BEH said the purpose of public health inspection is to examine health hazards to see if they comply with regulations. This helps prevent harm to workers, property, the environment, and the public. If conditions do not comply, the health inspector takes necessary action to alleviate or eliminate the hazard.

United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

PUBLIC NOTICE TO CONDUCT SURVEY/INTERVIEW FOR FY 2012-2016 FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN

FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN FY 2012-2016

The Developmental Disabilities Act includes ten Areas of emphasis that the DD Councils are to address in their state plans according to the needs of their communities, input from people with disabilities or their family members, and the status of service delivery systems. The ten areas of emphasis in alphabetical order are:

- CHILD CARE
- CROSS CUTTING
- EDUCATION/EARLY INTERVENTION
- EMPLOYMENT
- FORMAL/INFORMAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT
- HEALTH
- HOUSING
- QUALITY ASSURANCE
- RECREATION
- TRANSPORTATION

The CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is required by Federal law to submit a Five Year State Plan every five years.

Therefore, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities will be conducting surveys/interviews on the island of Saipan on what priorities/goals that best utilizes the CNMI limited resources to increase system capacity, encourage advocacy and self-advocacy, and work toward system change in the areas of emphasis laid out by the federal Developmental Disabilities Act.

During the surveys/interviews, individuals with disabilities, their families, friends, and the general public will be provided the opportunity to provide their input and comments that will assist the Council with identifying priority issues that the Council can effectively address in the goals and objectives of the proposed FIVE YEAR STATE PLAN for Fiscal Years 2012 to 2016.

All and any comments, recommendations or inputs given during these surveys/interviews are confidential.

Schedule of Survey/Interview on Saipan

Koblerville	Susupe	Tanapag	Kagman
WHEN: February 22, 2011	WHEN: February 23, 2011	WHEN: February 24, 2011	WHEN: TBA
WHERE: Koblerville Youth Center	WHERE: Multi-Purpose Center	WHERE: Tanapag Youth Center	WHERE: TBA
TIME: 5:00pm to 7:00pm	TIME: 5:00pm to 7:00pm	TIME: 5:00pm to 7:00pm	TIME: 5:00pm to 7:00pm

**** Surveys/Interviews have been conducted for the islands of Tinian on Jan. 13-15, 2011 & Rota on Jan. 21-22, 2011.**

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you require reasonable accommodation (large print, sign language interpreter) to participate, please contact the CNMI DD COUNCIL Office at least 3 working days in advance of the meeting to make necessary arrangements.

Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director of CNMI DD COUNCIL

This advertisement was paid for with DD Basic Grant Funds

CNMI DD COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 502565
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-7000
Fax: (670) 664-7030
Telecommunication Relay
Service 511 or 711

SHEFA BUDGET BILL

Hiring of consultants, professional services barred

The appropriation bill for the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance for the current fiscal year bars the usage of operational fund in hiring consultants and professional services.

House Local Bill 17-33, which appropriates \$3.260 million from revenues to be collected from poker fees to SHEFA programs and other purposes, also maintains the secretary of the Department of Finance as expenditure authority of the scholarship funds which the board wants to be transferred to its authority.

During its recent meeting, SHEFA board members agreed to ask the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to amend the bill to reflect the

proposed transfer of expenditure authority over SHEFA funds and clarification on the reprogramming authority of the board.

A meeting between the members and the delegation is slated this week.

HLB 17-33 appropriated \$3 million to the SHEFA scholarship programs; \$100,000 for the SHEFA operations; \$20,000 for Saipan Little League; \$20,000 for the Flame Tree Arts Festival; \$45,000 for Saipan Zoning Law; \$20,000 for the agricultural fair; \$10,000 for the Saipan fishing derby;

and \$45,000 for the Liberation Day festivities.

The bill indicated that funds appropriations shall not be reprogrammed for any other purposes and monies provided for SHEFA operations shall not be used for consulting and/or professional services contracts.



Hofschneider

Saipan Tribune learned that SHEFA spent over \$396,000 for consultants and professional services since the program inception in 2004 to 2010.

These professional services mainly comprised of the consulting fee paid to its consultants William Torres and Sue Dris, who were

provided by the previous board a \$40,000 contract each year for the past six years. Other items included in the professional services were the legal opinions sought by management during the previous years.

All these funds were sourced from the yearly SHEFA operational budget of \$100,000.

The board on Thursday agreed to provide a comment to the budget bill which is separate from the comment of Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores.

"We will try to encourage the delegation to change the expenditure authority...from finance secretary to the SHEFA board," SHEFA administrator Hofschneider told the board. **(Moneth G. Deposa)**

Over 500 students advance to math court regionals

More than 500 schoolchildren from private and public elementary schools were adjudged winners in the recently concluded regular math court competition and will advance to the regional rounds next month.

Based on the Public School System's website for math court events, a total of 522 students from kindergarten to fifth grade won first to fifth place in the contest categories during Saturday's two-hour event at Chacha Oceanview Junior High School.

Over 800 students from 15 schools on Saipan and Tinian registered for the event. It was the biggest ever recorded by the system in the history of the competition which started in 2005.

Compared to the previous years' four preliminary events, this year's math court competition had only two regular events prior to the regional contest.

Math court aims to measure the mathematical achievement of students at every grade level and award those students show-

ing the highest levels of mastery at each level. Students competed in three categories: numbers, Algebra/data statistics and probability, and measurement/geometry. All questions were aligned to the CNMI Math Standards and Benchmarks.

According to Reo Arriola, math court team coordinator for K-5th division, PSS will continue to help students strive for excellence in mathematics through healthy competition and introduce them to math challenges in an enjoyable way, thus, inspir-

ing their further interest and advancement in mathematics.

Arriola attributed the success of the event to the dedication and commitment of the PSS math court team and other volunteers who made the event possible this year. **(Moneth G. Deposa)**

ENROLL IN NMTI NOW!

Learn a high paying skill! Northern Marianas Trades Institute is daily accepting students, male and female, regardless of age, education or ethnic background. All that is required is a desire to learn a trade in one of the many courses offered. Immediate enrollment.

Financial assistance available.

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute
Where your future begins!
Call 235-6684 now!

Can you identify?

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.



Last Feb. 8's photo was identified as: from left, Abelina Taitano, Jose M. Taitano, Cynthia Taitano, Juliana T. Cabrera and Carmen L. Wenio. Identified by Leo Kani.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha	
MELL SILOSO	017E	2/12 Sat	2/10 Thu	2/10 Thu	2/8 Tue	2/5 Sat	2/18 Fri	2/14 Mon	2/13 Sun	2/6 Sun	2/6 Sun	2/14 Mon	2/18 Fri	2/20 Sun	2/22 Tue	
MELL SENTOSA	051E	2/19 Sat	2/17 Thu	2/17 Thu	2/15 Tue	2/12 Sat	2/25 Fri	2/21 Mon	2/20 Sun	2/13 Sun	2/13 Sun	2/21 Mon	2/25 Fri	2/27 Sun	3/1 Tue	
MELL SPRINGLEAF	017E	2/26 Sat	2/24 Thu	2/24 Thu	2/22 Tue	2/19 Sat	3/4 Fri	2/28 Mon	2/27 Sun	2/20 Sun	2/20 Sun	2/28 Mon	3/4 Fri	3/6 Sun	3/8 Tue	
MELL SILOSO	018E	3/5 Sat	3/3 Thu	3/3 Thu	3/1 Tue	2/26 Sat	3/11 Fri	3/7 Mon	3/6 Sun	2/27 Sun	2/27 Sun	3/7 Mon	3/11 Fri	3/13 Sun	3/15 Tue	
MELL SENTOSA	052E	3/12 Sat	3/10 Thu	3/10 Thu	3/8 Tue	3/5 Sat	3/18 Fri	3/14 Mon	3/13 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/14 Mon	3/18 Fri	3/20 Sun	3/22 Tue	
MELL SPRINGLEAF	018E	3/19 Sat	3/17 Thu	3/17 Thu	3/15 Tue	3/12 Sat	3/25 Fri	3/21 Mon	3/20 Sun	3/13 Sun	3/13 Sun	3/21 Mon	3/25 Fri	3/27 Sun	3/29 Tue	
Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA	ETD	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore	
		Guam														
	MELL SILOSO	017E	2/26 Sat	2/27 Sun	2/27 Sun	SKIP	3/2 Wed	3/4 Fri	3/6 Sun	SKIP	3/11 Fri	3/12 Sat	3/17 Thu	4/5 Tue	3/20 Sun	3/16 Wed
	MELL SENTOSA	051E	3/5 Sat	3/6 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/8 Tue	3/9 Wed	3/11 Fri	3/13 Sun	SKIP	3/18 Fri	3/19 Sat	3/24 Thu	4/12 Tue	3/27 Sun	3/23 Wed
	MELL SPRINGLEAF	017E	3/12 Sat	3/13 Sun	3/13 Sun	SKIP	3/16 Wed	3/18 Fri	3/20 Sun	SKIP	3/25 Fri	3/26 Sat	3/31 Thu	4/19 Tue	4/3 Sun	3/30 Wed
	MELL SILOSO	018E	3/19 Sat	3/20 Sun	3/20 Sun	3/22 Tue	3/23 Wed	3/25 Fri	3/27 Sun	SKIP	4/1 Fri	4/2 Sat	4/7 Thu	4/26 Tue	4/10 Sun	4/6 Wed
	MELL SENTOSA	052E	3/26 Sat	3/27 Sun	3/27 Sun	SKIP	3/30 Wed	4/1 Fri	4/3 Sun	SKIP	4/8 Fri	4/9 Sat	4/14 Thu	5/3 Tue	4/17 Sun	4/13 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	018E	4/2 Sat	4/3 Sun	4/3 Sun	4/5 Tue	4/6 Wed	4/8 Fri	4/10 Sun	SKIP	4/15 Fri	4/16 Sat	4/21 Thu	5/10 Tue	4/24 Sun	4/20 Wed	

Weekly service. More frequent. More dependable.

Website: www.mariana-express.com

Exclusive General Agent of MELL

For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

CTSI LOGISTICS,
CTSI Building, Lower Base,
P.O. Box 501937,
Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

Edgar T. Garcia
Inbound/Outbound
Tel. No. (670) 322-1690 ext. 422

Leslie R. Alcantara
Sales and Marketing
Tel. No. (670) 322-1690 ext. 402



Thomas E. Clifford
Attorney at Law
2nd Floor, Alexander Building, San Jose
P.O. Box 506514
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 235-8846
Fax (670) 235-8848

Attorney for Plaintiff First Hawaiian Bank

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS**

FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK,	)	CIVIL ACTION
	)	NO. 09-0178
Plaintiff,)	
	)	NOTICE OF
vs.	)	FORECLOSURE SALE
)	
VICENTE S. SALAS and)	
JOAQUINA DLG. SALAS,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, by virtue of a Judgment of Foreclosure entered on February 3, 2010, and an Order Granting Substitution of Auctioneer dated December 20, 2010, in favor of Plaintiff, First Hawaiian Bank, and against Defendants, Vicente S. Salas and Joaquina DLG. Salas, and the Court ordering a public sale, pursuant to 2 CMC ' 4537 (e), of Defendants' mortgaged right, title, interest and claim in and to real property and all improvements thereon situated in Capital Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described as follows:

Lot Number 018 E 29, Capital Hill, Saipan, as more particularly on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 018 E 01, the original of which was recorded on 01 May 86, as Document No. 86-0878 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

The undersigned will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, Defendants' right, title, and interest in and to the above-described property, for cash, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow.

1. **Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on **February 25, 2011**, at the hour of **2:00 p.m., at the entranceway to the Law Offices of Thomas E. Clifford, Alexander Building, San Jose, Saipan.** Registration for the auction sale will begin at **1:30 p.m.**

2. **Inspection of Property.** It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure of the bidder to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by a bidder.

3. **Warranties and Covenants.** The real property listed in this Notice will be sold in its current condition "as-is-where-is" as of the date of sale. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of merchantability, and/or title of fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the real property listed, or for any defect in the description thereof. Buyer shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof. The real property listed is being sold subject to all existing covenants, conditions, restrictions, reservations, exploration rights, easements, rights of way, assessments, zoning, and all other land use restrictions. And, the real property listed is being sold subject to the undersigned's acceptance of any bid.

4. **Conduct of Sale.**
a. **RESERVE.** The sale may be held without reserve, meaning a minimum price. Any reserve price on the real property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. **BIDS.** The auction will be open, oral and verbal. Advance bids for the real property listed in this Notice may be submitted in writing in advance of the auction date and time and delivered to **Auctioneer, Micheline W. Brel, in care of the Law Offices of Thomas E. Clifford, Saipan.** The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or error in delivery of advance bids. The highest advance bid will be the opening bid. The amount of increment to increase bids and the decision as to naming who is the high bidder will be at the discretion and sole discretion of the undersigned. The highest bid made at the auction, and accepted by the undersigned, shall be considered an agreement by the bidder to buy the real property and that bid amount shall be final.

c. **DISPUTES.** The undersigned may resubmit any real property listed in this Notice, if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

d. **DEPOSIT.** Immediately after a sale is consummated the successful bidder must pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price. Payment shall be in cash, certified check, Cashier's check, or Money Order. The balance of 90% must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of the **Law Offices of Thomas E. Clifford**, within seventy-two (72) hours from the time of sale, in cash or cash equivalent. If the full balance of 90% is not paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and may again offer for sale the above listed real property.

e. **MEMORANDUM.** If requested by the undersigned, a successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale immediately after the sale of the listed real property is struck at auction. All sales are final and there are no refunds.

5. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the CNMI governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties: (1) To withdraw the real property listed in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such real property is accepted; (2) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the real property is struck off; (3) To offer the real property listed in any order it may choose; and (4) To reject, on behalf of the Plaintiff, any and all bids for any reason. The exercise of any of these four rights and duties will be without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby.

6. **Court Approval Required.** Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to Court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of Court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when Court approval is granted or rejected.

7. **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 12th day of January, 2011.
/s/ Micheline W. Brel
MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer
P.O. Box 505710, Saipan
Tel: (670) 235-8064, 788-1855
Fax: 235-8070
E-mail: michbrel@hotmail.com

GREGORY J. KOEBEL, Esq.
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes
Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza
One Nauru Loop
P.O. Box 501969
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-5684
Fax No. (670) 234-5683

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Wells Fargo Financial

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.,	)	CIVIL ACTION
	)	NO.
Plaintiff,	)	09 - 0274
)	
vs.)	
	)	NOTICE OF SALE
FRANCISCO A. DELA CRUZ and PRECILLA B DELA CRUZ,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Auction Sale Order, dated February 14, 2011, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendants Francisco A. Dela Cruz and Precilla B. Dela Cruz' interests in Lot 010 K 64, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Lot 010 K 64, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01, the original of which was recorded 19 AUG 1987 as Document No. 87-2911 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Francisco Ermitanio of Wells Fargo Financial, Inc. at Tel. No. 235-6044.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

A) **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) **Payment.** The successful bidder shall pay ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated. The balance must be paid to Plaintiff, in care of the undersigned, within five (5) calendar days of the sale. If the balance is not paid within five (5) calendar days of the sale, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and the property may be resubmitted for sale, or sold to the next highest bidder, at Plaintiff's option.

D) **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 15th of February, 2011.

/S/ Gregory J. Koebel
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

GREGORY J. KOEBEL, Esq.
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes
Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza
One Nauru Loop
P.O. Box 501969
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-5684
Fax No. (670) 234-5683

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Wells Fargo Financial

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.,	)	CIVIL ACTION
	)	NO.
Plaintiff,	)	10-0133
)	
vs.)	
	)	NOTICE OF SALE
FRANCISCO S. ROSARIO,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Sale Order, dated January 10, 2011, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendant Francisco S. Rosario' interests in Lot 005 I 513, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Lot 005 I 513, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2084/92, the original of which was recorded 14 MAY 1982 as Document No. 14232 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Francisco Ermitanio of Wells Fargo Financial, Inc. at Tel. No. 235-6044.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

A) **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) **Bids.** Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) **Payment.** The successful bidder shall pay ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated. The balance must be paid to Plaintiff, in care of the undersigned, within five (5) calendar days of the sale. If the balance is not paid within five (5) calendar days of the sale, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and the property may be resubmitted for sale, or sold to the next highest bidder, at Plaintiff's option.

D) **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 15th of February, 2011.

/S/ Gregory J. Koebel
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

Super CPR Saturday set for March 5

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Red Cross NMI Chapter will be conducting training on how to administer the emergency procedure called cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Super CPR Saturday is scheduled on March 5, from 8am to 1pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Saturday's training fee is at a reduced rate of \$5 per person. Regular price for CPR class is valued at \$35.

Emergency Services director Juan Diego Tenorio said the reduced rate was made possible by the Office of Homeland Security in conjunction with the CNMI Citizen Corps Program.

According to Tenorio, Red Cross conducts the Super CPR Saturdays about once or twice annually on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"The Super CPR is a way for us to give back to the community and to give more people the chance to obtain CPR skills. The more people we have out in the community with the skills, the better our chances are in helping somebody who needs it," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tenorio added that the Super CPR Saturday also aims "to really spread the word and show the public the importance of having skills more available for community members."

Certified Red Cross instructors will conduct the training to the participants who will receive a certificate after the course, Tenorio said.

"With the \$5 rate, the participants will only be paying for the course materials," he added.

Tenorio said slots for the Super CPR Saturday are limited to only 100 participants so registration is on a first-come-first-served basis.

According to Tenorio, the \$5 fee for the first 50 participants to check in at the venue will be waived as they will receive a \$5 coupon courtesy of the Office of Homeland Security.

"The \$5 fee will be waived regardless of whether or not you call in and put your name ahead of time," Tenorio explained.

To register or for more information, call the American Red Cross NMI Chapter at 234-3459.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy second birthday to Louis Benedict who celebrated his special day yesterday, Feb. 22. Good health and stay a loving and sweet boy! God bless and we love you! Love Ate Queen Anne, Mommy Joanne, and Papa Benju.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 23, 1999

Senator wants to realign projects in CIP bill

A crucial legislation setting in motion millions of dollars in capital improvement projects in the Northern Marianas may get derailed in the Senate as members have expressed dismay on the appropriation measure that sets aside funds for certain infrastructure plan of the government. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said he would amend the bill passed by the House of Representatives early this month to transfer funding from various village youth center project into a road improvement project in San Vicente. "We will need to look into the measure before we pass it in the Senate" he told in an interview. His statement was in contrast with earlier pledge of Senate Floor leader Pete P. Reyes to rush its passage appropriating close to \$23 million for several CIP-funded projects which is seen as potential catalyst to steer the local economy from its deepening crisis.

PSS to start youth survey

The Public School System will conduct the youth risk behavior survey (YRBS) in the CNMI to help determine practices which are considered at risk and help identify education programs in addressing these habits. Sponsored by the HIV/AIDS program of PSS, target respondents are students from grades six to 12. From the survey, PSS can identify health risk behaviors which cause mortality, morbidity and social problems. From alcohol to drug use, respondents will also be asked about their sexual behavior. One class period is needed to complete the questionnaire containing multiple-choice questions.

Feb. 23, 2000

House restricts minors' access to firearms

In a move to address problems relating to the risks emerging from the children's access to firearms, Rep. Rosiky Camacho yesterday introduced a legislation that will impose harsh penalties to reckless gun owners. Mr. Camacho said many firearm owners keep the weapon in their houses where children can find it, thereby, posing threats to the lives not only of the children but the people around the neighborhood as well. Called the Children Firearms Control Act of 2000, House Bill 12-084 makes persons who allow minors access to firearms will be liable for any damage that the guns may cause, whether to the child or to any other person or property.

Lawsuits taking toll on Saipan garment industry

Opening the Northern Marianas economy to more garment manufacturing facilities may not yield good fruits both for the CNMI government and potential investors due to the present condition faced by the industry. The billion-dollar class suit filed against garment manufacturing companies on Saipan and their mainland buyers last year has started taking its toll on the apparel industry, according to the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association. In a testimony submitted to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, SGMA said the industry is currently dealing with slow business resulting from buyers' apprehension on placing orders from Saipan garment manufacturers.

Feb. 23, 2001

DLNR stays food ban for another month

Citing continued health hazard, the Department of Public Health advised officials of Lands and Natural Resources to extend existing ban on all food cargoes coming in from the Federated States of Micronesia. In response, DLNR officials yesterday disclosed the food ban has been extended for another 30 days to prevent possible entry of cholera-tainted food supplies from FSM into the Northern Marianas. The cholera epidemic in FSM remains unresolved. Officials said it might take another year to flush out the epidemic from the islands.

Teno to discuss PCB with OIA

Commonwealth leaders are hoping to secure the support of the Office of Insular Affairs on various issues including the shipment of PCB-contaminated soil to the mainland United States. Before he departs for Washington DC. Yesterday, the governor disclosed plans to meet with newly installed OIA Director Gale Norton. The executive director hopes to establish a more solid relationship with the Interior Affairs office. The governor is taking the first step to renew the relationship between the local government and the agency tasked to look after the needs of US insular areas. Mr. Tenorio said the meeting is CNMI's commitment to work closely with the OIA in resolving pending issues previously identified by a special task force. This include programs aimed at developing the Commonwealth's economy.

KagHS hosts 4 Japanese cultural exchange students



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Visiting students from Johoku High School in Japan pose with their counterparts from Kagman High School yesterday. The Japanese students were on island from Feb. 17 to 22 to participate in a cultural exchange program.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four students from Johoku High School in Japan arrived on island on Feb. 17 to participate in a cultural exchange program with Kagman High School.

The participating Japanese students were Chiaki Irino, Misako Nihei, Miki Ebata, and Shouhei Murata. They were accompanied by their teacher Ka-

zue Inose.

Pacific Development Inc. assistant manager Hiroko Tajima said Johoku High School, located in Ibarakai Prefecture in Japan, and Kagman High School have been doing the cultural exchange program since 2004.

Tajima told *Saipan Tribune* that two of the Japanese students home-stayed with Kagman High School students Angel Cabrera San Nicolas and Seora Jin who

visited Johoku High School last November.

According to Tajima, San Nicolas and Jin had a wonderful experience in Japan that they decided to host the Johoku High School students this time.

The other home-stay families that hosted the Japanese students were Sumech Debengek San Nicolas and John Agulto Salas.

"Over the weekend, they enjoyed island hospitality by visit-

ing sightseeing spots, shopping, and seeing a movie with host family," said Tajima.

During President's Day holiday last Monday, the students and their host families went to Pau Pau Beach for a barbecue picnic.

"PDI is proud to assist this cultural exchange program since the beginning," Tajima added.

The Japanese students flew back to Japan yesterday.

PAWS is seeking new members

It's no secret that Saipan has a problem with sick and homeless dogs and cats. Everyone has seen the starving dog begging in parking lots or the mange-covered cat crossing the street. Most people want to help fix this problem but just don't know where to begin.


The good news is that a group called PAWS is actively working to address these issues. PAWS was founded on Saipan in 1993 and operates as an independent not-for-profit organization. PAWS is dedicated to the health, care, welfare, and population control of cats and dogs in the CNMI and to the education of the public for animal care and rights.

Anyone who cares about animals is welcome to join PAWS. A PAWS member can get involved in several different ways; they can rescue strays, foster animals or donate money or services. The organization itself is run by a board of seven individuals who are elected by the members. The members of the current board are Sarah Fryling, Bobbi Grizzard, Jennifer Welton, Paul Plunkett, Patricia Garshak, Rachelle Miles, and Adam Miles.

PAWS is made up entirely of volunteers. It has no employees and no physical office. This means that all donations received go directly toward

helping the animals. The large majority of the PAWS budget goes to pay the veterinarian bills for animals that are rescued. PAWS helps an average of 12 to 15 such animals a month. All of them go to Paradise Island Animal Hospital where they receive treatment for parasites, mange, or whatever illnesses they may have. From there the animals go to foster homes where PAWS members will care for them until they can find a permanent home. A small part of the funds goes toward educational campaigns geared towards informing the community on proper pet care. An example of this is a program where PAWS representatives go to grade schools to teach kids how to care for their pets.

Are you discouraged by the amount of homeless, emaciated boonie dogs and cats roaming the roads of Saipan? PAWS rescues as many of these animals as we can, but we need your help. Get involved. Become a member of PAWS. Our suggested annual membership fee is \$30, but we will accept whatever amount you can give. Go to our website: www.paws-saipan.org. Download the membership application and send it with your check to P. O. Box 5330, Saipan, MP 96950. PAWS thanks you for caring. (PR)


COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950-1055 • Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID
CPA-IFB-11-01
"SALE OF CPA VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT"


The location of the vehicles and equipment is at the Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed bids from individuals or firms interested in buying CPA vehicles and equipment. The list of vehicles and equipment will be available for pick up at the Saipan International Airport, administration office on the 2nd floor of the arrival terminal starting February 17, 2011 during regular working hours. The closing date of this bid is March 11, 2011 at 2:00 pm. All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked CPA-IFB-11-01.

The individual or firm submitting the highest bid for any or all the vehicles or equipment on the list must make full payment within five (5) working days from the date of notification. Payment must be made to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. All vehicles and equipment are sold "AS IS" and "WHERE IS" and WITHOUT WARRANTY. All sold properties must be removed from CPA property within 72 hours from the date of payment. CPA will not be responsible for said property after the specified timeframe.

All items listed may be viewed at the location indicated on the listing. Inquiries may be directed to the Operations Supervisor, Mr. John Tudela, at telephone number 237-6500.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO Date: 02/16/2011
Executive Director


PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT


REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP-NMC-048

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 17, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.


"SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND CONNECTION OF INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE"

PROPOSAL PACKETS ARE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED IN THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmc_its@recovery.gov.mp.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **MARCH 04, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.** IN THE NMC PROCUREMENT PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 2ND FLOOR, BUILDING L.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA /s/ LORRAINE T. CABRERA /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD INTERIM PRESIDENT, NMC DIRECTOR, P&S


PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT


INVITATION FOR BID
IFB-NMC-052

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.


"PURCHASE OF THIRTY (30) LAPTOP COMPUTERS SONY VAIO SR SERIES, FIFTEEN (15) APPLE MACBOOKS 13" AND FIVE (5) APPLE MACBOOKS PRO 17" FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE"

BID PACKETS ARE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED IN THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmc_fac_laptop@recovery.gov.mp.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA E-MAIL TO alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS **MARCH 04, 2011**.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA /s/ LORRAINE T. CABRERA /s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD INTERIM PRESIDENT, NMC DIRECTOR, P&S


Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6886, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>


REVISED PUBLIC NOTICE


Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTE
- a. December 04, 2010 – Special Board Meeting Minute
- IV. SWEAR IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER
- V. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- VI. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
 - a. Project Status Update
- VII. PROGRAM & HOUSING
 - a. SEMAP Update
 - b. HCV Update
- VIII. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAM
 - a. RD Settlement Update
 - b. Loans for Board's Approval
 - c. Other Loan Matters
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- X. FIELD OFFICE REPORTS
- XI. FISCAL AFFAIRS
 - a. Financial Statements
 - b. 2012 Budget
 - c. Travel Policy
- XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- XIII. OTHER MATTERS
 - a. LIHTC Update
- XIV. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

 NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer.


COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (ATCT) PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-11

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower (ATCT) at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing monthly maintenance services for the Tower, the Base Building and its surroundings. The proposal package which includes the scope of work, selection criteria, and draft agreement will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Monday, February 21, 2011. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work- All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Proposers shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows~ "Proposal for tile Preventive Maintenance of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Saipan International Airport". One original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.


Contractor will be required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements- Copies of the insurance requirements may be obtained with the scope of work at the office of the Executive Director.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director
Date: Feb. 18, 2011


Vacancy Announcement
PAIMI Advisory Council Member

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI) wishes to announce vacancies for the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) Advisory Council (PAC).

The PAIMI program is being administered by NMPASI, a non-profit organization. The Council's purpose is to "advise the PAIMI program on policies and priorities to be carried out in protecting and advocating for the rights of individuals with mental illness."

The council is comprised of eight volunteer members who serve four year terms. The ideal candidate will help promote the organization's mission, program, and activities. The council's responsibilities include but not limited to

- Attend regular council meetings, four times annually;
- Provide independent advice and recommendations to the system;
- Work jointly with the governing board in developing policies and priorities; and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meeting on behalf of the PAIMI program

Currently, the Council needs to fill positions for the following categories:

- (1) Individual who is a recipient/former recipient of mental health services;
- (2) mental health service provider;
- (3) mental health professional; and
- (4) Individual from the public knowledgeable about mental illness.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes' to Melrosa Rebueng, PAIMI Chair, via the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. / P.O. Box 503529 / Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver to the NMPASI office located in Gualo Rai. All letters of interests must be received no later than 5:00 PM on March 1, 2011.

For more information, please feel free to contact the NMPASI's Executive Director, James Rayphand at 235-7273/4 (voice), or 235-7278 (tty).

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 45Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Resettling the Uighurs

It's a high compliment when someone seeks to live in a country that imprisoned and abused him. That's what five Chinese Muslims held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility want to do, but they're encountering resistance from the Justice Department. It is urging the Supreme Court not to review an appeals court decision holding that a judge may not release them into this country.

The Muslims, members of an ethnic group called the Uighurs who want independence from China, had traveled to Afghanistan, where Uighur military training camps had been set up. After the United States launched a military offensive in Afghanistan, they and others were captured by Pakistani and other coalition forces and brought to Guantanamo. Eventually they were exonerated of being enemy combatants and cleared for resettlement.

No one disputes that the Uighurs would be in danger if they were repatriated. It is equally clear to us that, having mistreated these individuals, the United States has a moral obligation to grant them a haven. The Obama administration, however, contends that the only right the Uighurs have is to be resettled abroad.

In its brief urging the Supreme Court not to take the case, the administration notes that the Uighurs were offered resettlement in the Pacific Ocean nation of Palau and another country that has withdrawn its offer because the Uighurs refused to accept it. Other Uighur detainees have been resettled in Palau, Albania, Switzerland and Bermuda. The administration also notes that the Uighurs are seeking U.S. residency outside the usual immigration process.

Poignant as the Uighurs' predicament is, their case has implications for other detainees who may be cleared of being enemy combatants and who persuade a judge that they should be released into the United States. The appeals court said that "never in the history of habeas corpus has any court thought it had the power to order an alien held overseas brought into the sovereign territory of a nation and released into the general population." But the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base isn't "overseas." According to the Supreme Court, the U.S. maintains "de facto sovereignty" over the territory.

The issues in this case are complicated. Not for the first time, the high court would have to wrestle with the legal fallout of the creation of the Bush administration's law-free zone. We believe the Constitution allows for the release of the Uighurs into the United States, but if the court is to disagree, it should do so after hearing both sides. The Uighurs deserve at least that much.

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times.



Questions for China and the US

Every serious global problem has an important China angle. The Chinese are everywhere, and they're not going away any time soon.

As a matter of fact, the Chinese are firmly convinced that this is "their" century, and that they will displace the United States as global economic leader.

The last country with a dominant global economic role that had to face a boisterous, fast-growing upstart was Britain. The upstart was us. And in the decades following World War I, Britain assessed the situation wisely and adapted their policies shrewdly, becoming America's "special partner." Our role as global economic leader is under challenge today by the Chinese, and they are beefing up their military as well.

China is completing a succession struggle to determine who will be its next paramount leader. This process is famously murky to both outsiders and insiders, but it appears that Xi Jinping will be designated to succeed President Hu Jintao. We know little about what Xi thinks and what deals he had to make to beat out his competitors for the job. But the transition means China will be reassessing its position on key issues; and that's a good time for us to reassess too.

To a country like ours, mired in a deep recession, China seems to be rippling with economic muscle and implacable in its momentum. But China is also a country with enormous problems as well as strengths. How would you like to run a country that will have to import increasing proportions of its food, energy and other raw materials; faces enormous pressure on its water supplies; and sees most of the oceans that surround it dominated by a heavily militarized nation 10,000 miles away? The decade we just completed was the first in half a century during which the world as a whole consumed more grain than it produced, eating into reserves for the first time since the 1950s. China has made huge strides in agricultural production, but it sees the handwriting on the wall. It seeks to dominate wind and solar, the world's established renewable energy technologies, but even when you count the country's vast coal reserves, the Chinese depend increasingly on energy imports.

By **PETER GOLDMARK**
Newsday (MCT)

Peter Goldmark, a former publisher of the International Herald Tribune, headed the climate program at the Environmental Defense Fund. He wrote this for Newsday.



China will be able to achieve neither energy nor food independence, and it is being drawn into uneasy participation in the global regimes that govern trade, international finance and investment. Will China support these regimes, or seek brutally to bend them to Chinese objectives? President Barack Obama tells the Chinese that both countries can prosper if we cooperate. I see the Chinese response to this, so far, as guarded.

On many of the most important issues of our time, China is ambivalent or downright recalcitrant. It has not moved decisively to put its carbon emissions on a downward path — and if China and the United States do not both do that soon, we will fry the planet. It has been erratic in its stance toward North Korea, a neighbor that endangers us all by selling components of weapons of mass destruction. And China has been an inconsistent participant in the world's free-trade regime.

Even as it seeks to internationalize its currency, it maintains a system of extensive capital controls and operates a two-track economy: one for the Chinese and one for foreign business interests.

In the end, the questions for China are really questions for the United States as well. Can China and the United States conclude that an unrestrained arms race is in neither's interest? Can they both reduce their carbon emissions? And can they devise new systems of restraint and cooperation in cyberspace, which is where many of the most dangerous sources of instability going forward will be found? We all have a lot riding on whether these two economic giants can find cooperative answers to those questions—or whether confrontation and provocation unleash a costly new cold war.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Shifting sands of paradise

Earth is a neutral physical object. Its ownership and use subject to the disposition of man. It started in ancient history where “might is right.” It then shifted to religious precepts and finally, civil authority.

Men of wisdom, i.e., philosophers, lawyers, politicians, academics, economists of every stripe, and, of course, and clerics have debated land ownership for millennia.

The contemporary debate now focuses on individual versus the statist view of government owning and controlling land for the masses. In democratic countries the individual's rights to own property is fully protected.

Here in the islands the prevailing debate focuses on whether to retain or repeal Article XII that limits landownership to people of Northern Marianas Descent.

The anomaly under this constitutional provision is in its discrimination of other U.S. citizens. Nowhere do we find the term equality under the current provision. That it is discriminatory makes it an unconstitutional provision from A-Z. Isn't the right to own property under the Bill of Rights? Shouldn't the right to own property be protected so we can rein in the benefits of reciprocity?

That Article XII denies all landowners final disposition of their property means that half of your private land belongs to the local government a rather ludicrous arrangement. Didn't we use to own private land 100 percent up until 1978? Why must we now ask permission to use our land? Isn't Article XII a “transitional” provision that merits complete repeal today?

During our stint with the TTG, we've sold land to almost anybody who wants it for family or business purposes. Is there a difference then and now?

There are other inequities inherent under this local constitutional provision, but for now let's focus strictly on landownership. Isn't final disposition of private land best left in the hands of the landowner rather than the local government? In the last 33 years, did the local government lift a finger to assist landowners in the positive disposition of the other half of their land? What are the negative collateral effects of the current arrangement?

Briefly, Article XII renders three major setbacks that are very damaging. They are: 1). Denies other U.S. citizens their rights to own property. 2). Robs NMDs half of their land. 3). Denies investment incentive and economic opportunities after investors learned the lack of protection of lifetime savings they share with the NMI to build the local economy since the late sixties.

Its mojo back, Egypt poised to lead region to democracy

CAIRO—While rebellions are erupting all over the Middle East, it is the continuing Egyptian revolution that will determine which direction the Arab world takes.

After spending Friday in Tahrir Square, where hundreds of thousands of Egyptians were jubilantly celebrating the fall of President Hosni Mubarak, and talking to a broad section of people involved in his downfall, I can see how Egypt's revolt might produce a democracy that delivers for the people. And if Egypt succeeds, the whole region would have a better chance.

The Tunisian revolt inspired Egyptians, but little Tunisia would not have ignited the entire region had the Egypt revolution faltered. Egypt, on the other hand, has 80 million people and a history that goes back 6,000 years. It has historically led the Arab world, in politics, and in culture, especially with its movies, authors, and singers.

Egyptians call their country “Mother of the World.” But over the last 30 years under Mubarak, the country has stagnated—a narrow sliver grew rich while the economy faltered—and failed to provide jobs for the younger generation, even those with university degrees.

As many young people told me on the square, what hurt them most was not their economic plight, but the daily humiliations they suffered. Constantly at the mercy of secret police, they watched Mubarak's cronies feed at the government trough while they earned peanuts and rigged elections prevented political change. Now, there is a rush of national pride at the fact that the Egyptian grass roots made this revolution, by itself.

As the conga lines of young men and women snaked through

Furthermore, it forces private landowners a significant loss on the market value of their land. It alienates other fellow citizens their rights to own property. It drains the NMI of billions of dollars in annual revenues because major investors can't fathom the obvious lack of protection for their investments. Most have left the NMI in recent past draining the local economy of billions of dollars that once were recycled here.

There's also the seeming advocacy of the NMI's legal institution to protect the essence of Article XII, a discriminatory land policy that is regressive at best, unstable at worse. This is the most prominent deterrent that permanently ruined investments, so to speak. If foreign investments can't be protected, coupled by lack of stable economic basic infrastructure to make doing business profitable, then it's time to move elsewhere. And they did! Would the NMI be able to secure substitute investments to cushion those who have left the NMI? It's a long shot, isn't it? It means there would be far less for far more at least for the next decade.

In either case, it seems we've declined into the fatuity of luxury—we had lots of money then—as to ignore the responsibility to strengthen the foundation of justice in these isles. We never check to ensure that our sandcastle along the shore holds up. We failed this simple task and only return to see what happened when it came cascading down to the ground. This failure has long-term consequences and we've just begun seeing the dire straits of a lack of resolute planning to protect the goose that lays the gold egg.

It definitely destroys wealth and jobs creation fueled by uncertainties of unstable policies. The final ruination came when our legal institution decided to subscribe to discrimination inherent under Article XII. What about the rights of the individual to own property? Is there room to begin anew? If there is then it's a long, long journey!

The what might have been

I could only imagine the “what might have been” had the NMI's legal institution ruled that Article XII is discriminatory. Pertinent federal court didn't decide on the constitutionality of Article XII. It only said it's an agreement between the NMI and the U.S., therefore, it is good.

Investors finally decided that it wasn't worth their investments fighting costly litigation versus Article XII and all the uncertainties it presents. It makes capital accumulation impossible to secure and invest without some sense of stability and certainty.

This triggered the sale of Hotel Nikko, other Japanese-owned

Tahrir Square holding huge Egyptian flags and singing, “Hold your head up, we are Egyptians,” I realized that this country has regained its mojo. Once again, the people of the region are looking to Cairo. If Egypt, whose size and human capital overshadow countries such as Yemen or Bahrain, can move toward representative government, it would become the role model for the Arab world.

However, despite the hoopla, I did not find the organizers of this revolt—architects, doctors, journalists, engineers, lawyers by training—to be naive. They know the obstacles they face, including an economy in free fall as tourism tanks.

The military—still hugely popular—has taken control of the country, supposedly for six months. During this time, the constitution will be amended to enable fair elections; an interim president will be elected, and possibly a new parliament as well.

But in conversations in dingy office buildings, and in the square, I heard much debate over whether six months is enough time to set up new political parties and develop civic awareness. The Mubarak regime crushed independent political life while letting Muslim Brotherhood candidates run; this permitted it to claim that the only alternative to its rule was the Islamists.

So, Egyptians must build new parties, which will take time (but they also worry that giving the military more time may encourage it to keep power).

Wael Nawara, a shrewd strategist for the small El Ghad Party (led by activist Ayman Nour), told me that holding elections before developing civic life was like “having the exam without first having the learning process.” First, he says, Egypt needs to develop political parties and free media. It

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



hotels and motels. JAL decided to dismantle and return to Tokyo. This includes a decision to scrap planned investments here to the tune of some \$1.5 billion.

We kept our land. Investors from the Land of the Rising Sun deployed to other nearby Asian countries where they can begin anew. The gain of Japanese investment by these countries is a loss for the NMI. Would they ever return? Not for a long, long time, if at all. It's a matter of mature sensitivity that we've treated with adolescence. So we've lost billions of dollars on investments from pioneering businessmen who saw opportunities to share their wealth with these islands.

■ ■ ■

How do you rebuild an economic bridge destroyed by negligence and immaturity? We've burned our bridges with the federal government only to be met with deficit hawks wielding machetes at the front door. We've also burned our bridges with investors from the Land of the Rising Sun and now rely upon speculative investments from South Korea and the Republic of China to make up the difference. But the latter takes a process just like any other venture. It's a protracted process luring Chinese investments without the intervention and assistance of the U.S. Department of State.

■ ■ ■

I've quizzed people the following arbitrary situation if only to see what is it that matters to them most. For instance, you advertise the sale of your house and lot on Navy Hill for \$180,000. An NMD came along and said he could only pay \$60,000 for it. The next day, a Korean offered the full amount as you've advertised. Who would you sell your property to? Each one of them said the Korean. No matter my reiterating the prohibition under Article XII, they all said, “Screw Article XII, I want top dollar for my property.” It goes to show that people want the real market value of their land never mind who buys it.

By **TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.



also needs to encourage its citizens—who are used to taking orders from the top—to participate in political life.

Meantime, activists worry that the disgraced party of Mubarak, whose members have vast assets, may make a comeback under another name. And the Muslim Brotherhood, already well-organized, has a head start over other new political groups. (I will write more about the Brotherhood in another column.)






Yet many activists echo the argument of well-known blogger Ahmad Badawy, who believes that—if the political system opens up—the Brotherhood would win only a minority of the ballots. He says the current low voter turnout will explode as motivated youths go to the polls and vote for new options. “A lot of young people are thinking of creating a party of our own or a coalition of all liberal parties,” he said.

It is this new political energy at the grass roots that makes me believe Egypt has the potential to build an electoral system in which people have real choices. The road will be very bumpy, with inevitable setbacks. But Egypt could (with luck) become the democratic “mother” to the Arab world.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

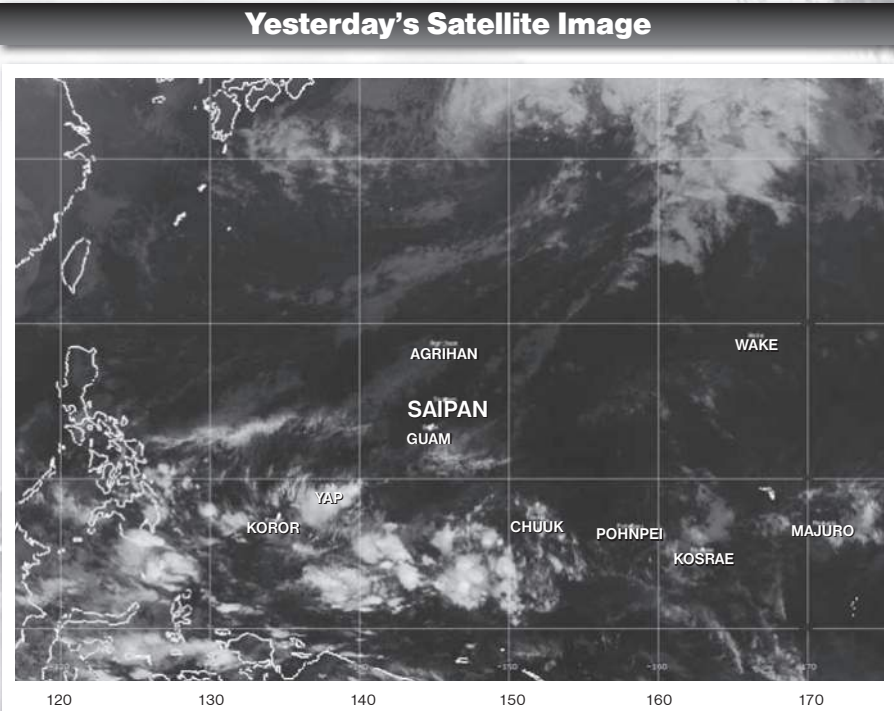
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼75
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲82 ▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲83 ▼78

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲72 ▼65
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲57 ▼28
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼60
Honolulu	Showers	▲79 ▼69
London	Rain	▲52 ▼43
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼43
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲87 ▼72
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼54
Miami	Sunny	▲83 ▼64
New York	Sunny	▲40 ▼26
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼45
Paris	Showers	▲47 ▼37
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲60 ▼44
Rome	Sunny	▲54 ▼33
Salem	Ice	▲39 ▼34
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲54 ▼43
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲51 ▼33
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲61 ▼43
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲42 ▼31

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
5:09 AM	Today	Low Tide: 0.6 Feet
10:53 AM	Today	High Tide: 2.0 Feet
6:03 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.0 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A trough of low pressure enters the discussion area near 5N130E and extends eastward to a circulation centered southeast of Palau near 4N138E. The trough continues eastward to 2N148E. Low-level convergence associated with the trough and circulation is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Palau between 4N and 8N from 135E to 143E. A weak circulation is centered at 5N147E. The circulation and associated convergence east of the circulation are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk within 150 miles of a line from 7N143E to 3N155E. A surface trough extends from near 7N162E to 3N163E. Scattered showers associated with this trough can be found around Kosrae and east of Pohnpei between 4N and 7N from 160E to 165E. Convergent east winds are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Majuro between 7N and 9N from 173E to 175E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Today	11:20 PM	10:06 AM
Thursday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Thursday		10:58 AM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM	Friday	12:20 AM	11:52 AM
Saturday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Saturday	1:18 AM	12:47 PM
Sunday	6:36 AM	6:24 PM	Sunday	2:12 AM	1:42 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010					
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS		
SAIPAN-GUAM			GUAM-SAIPAN		
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am 3:35am
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am 7:25am
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am 7:50am
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am 10:55am
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm 2:30pm
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm 5:50pm
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm 8:50pm
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN		
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am 3:05pm
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm 12:20am+1
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm 12:30am+1
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN		
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am 2:20am+1
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN		
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm 2:20am+1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN		
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am 2:20pm
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm 2:20am+1
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm 1:00am+1
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm 1:30am+1
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN		
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm 1:50am+1
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN		
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm 1:55am+1
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN		
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am 2:20pm
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	OZ716/603	12:30am 2:20pm
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	DL172/286	8:05am 12:20am+1
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	C0890/9606	10:55am 8:50pm
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm 1:00am+1
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm 1:30am+1
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm 7:25am+1
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	PR110/C09596	10:15pm 7:50am+1
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm 7:25am+1
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	10:25pm 7:50am+1
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm 7:50am+1
SAIPAN-HONG KONG			HONG KONG-SAIPAN		
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am 2:20pm
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ750/603	1:00am 2:20pm
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN		2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm 1:00am+1
				OZ722/605	1:30pm 1:30am+1
				C0910/9596	11:15pm 7:50am+1

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION

Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING

For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Aqua Resort marks Angus Beef milestone



Aqua Resort Club general manager Hiro Sugie, third from left, receives a custom-framed Toni Grote print from Triple J marketing manager Jay Santos, third from right. Also in photo, left to right, are sous chef Arnel Marquez, F&B Sales director Peding Sablan, director of operations Sachiko Mafnas, and F&B operations manager Rom Manzon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

chef Arnel Marquez.

Sugie was extremely pleased to be presented the custom-framed print from Certified Angus Beef and said the Aqua Resort is committed to providing their customers the best dining experience possible.

"We are very thankful to Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods and Certified Angus Beef for giving us this wonderful custom-framed Toni Grote print. We are very proud to do business with these companies," said Sugie.

Sablan agreed with Sugie and added "Certified Angus Beef has been offered by our restaurants since Day 1 and we will not sacrifice quality for our customers as they only expect the best".

Certified Angus Beef president John Sitka sent a letter to Sugie congratulating Aqua Resort on their 20-year anniversary with the Certified Angus Beef program.

"We are truly thankful for the partnership that has been established with Aqua Resort Club Saipan over the past 20 years and sincerely hope it will continue to grow in the years to come," he added.

Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods is a subsidiary of Triple J Saipan, Inc. and has been the exclusive distributor for Certified Angus Beef for well over 10 years. They take great pride in providing quality foodservice products to hotels, restaurants and retail stores on Saipan. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Aqua Resort Club general manager Hiro Sugie, left, and Triple J marketing manager Jay Santos hold up the custom-framed Toni Grote print.

York Striploin, Tenderloin, and T-Bone Steaks.

In attendance at the presentation for Aqua was Hiro Sugie,

director of operations Sachiko Mafnas, F&B Sales director Peding Sablan, F&B operations manager Rom Manzon, and sous

2011 MMAC team captains meeting tomorrow

The 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer organizing committee will be holding a team captains meeting tomorrow, Feb. 24, 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room.

All team captains or their representatives are invited to attend this important meeting where vital information will be discussed. Interested members of the community are invited to attend this important meeting where all will get a chance to ask questions and get more information on the largest annual cancer fundraising event in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The 2011 Marianas March Against Cancer is brought to you by title sponsors Take Care/FHP, Saipan Health Clinic/St. Jude Renal Care Facility, and Delta Air Lines. For more information on the 2011 MMAC, contact overall chair Dave Guerrero via email at dave.b.guerrero@gmail.com or call 989-2496 or visit www.ccamarianas.org. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tax changes topic in SHRM meeting tomorrow

Tax changes will be the topic in the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter's February general membership set tomorrow, Feb. 24, 2011, from 11:30am to 1:30pm Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

"Tax Changes That Affect Employers & Employees" will be presented by David J. Burger, CPA, of Burger and Comer, P.C.

The lunch meeting and presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for employers and employees to learn more about the important federal tax changes that took effect on Jan. 1, 2011, which will affect both businesses and individuals. Failing to make the proper deductions and payments could end up being a costly error for business owners. Other CNMI tax issues will also be addressed.

Burger will present on important topics such as:

- Social Security Tax changes that will lower the amount paid by all employees;
- Extension of the Bush-era tax cuts through the Tax Relief Act of 2010;
- Other December 2010 tax law changes enacted by the U. S. Congress;
- Strategies for getting your refund from the CNMI Government;
- The CNMI's recent misinterpretation of Business Gross Revenue Tax (BGRT);
- Paying taxes through the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS).

The presentation includes lunch and the cost is \$20 for SHRM members and \$30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly DLG Masga (SHRM CNMI Chapter President) at 237-5122 or e-mail her at pollydlg@gmail.com. (SHRM)

Support meeting for cancer survivors, caregivers tomorrow

All cancer survivors, their family members, and other caregivers, are invited to the next monthly support meeting tomorrow, Feb. 23, at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Meeting Room, starting at 5:30pm. This month's support meeting will begin with a simple survey to identify topics of interest for future educational presentations, ways to improve monthly support meetings, and any unmet support needs, and will be followed by conversations in two groups: survivors and caregivers. For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. (CCA)

NMTI topic in tomorrow's John Gonzales Live

Northern Marianas Trades Institute will be the topic on *John Gonzales Live* this Wednesday with the institute's president and founder Tony Pellegrino and its education director Vic S. Cepeda serving as guests. NMTI students Hamanda Kikku, Joseph Sablan, and Primo Jebehn will also be in attendance to share their experiences at the school. *John Gonzales Live* airs Wednesday and rebroadcasts on Sunday and Monday all from 7pm to 8 pm on KSPN Ch. 2 The show also rebroadcasts worldwide on the web to global internet radio listening audience on Betel Nut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com) on Wed, Feb. 23, 2011 at 6pm Pacific Standard Time and 9pm Eastern Standard Time (Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011 at 12 noon Chamorro Standard Time in the CNMI and Guam). Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), or emailing (johngonzales@pticom.com). (PR)

Deadline for submission of Tier II forms on March 1

HONOLULU—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reminds facilities in Guam, the CNMI, and American Samoa of the March 1 deadline regarding annual submission of Tier II inventory reporting forms for storage of hazardous chemicals during calendar year 2010 subject to Section 312 of the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act. The Tier II reports need to be submitted to the local fire department and the leading territorial agencies implementing the EPCRA law. Facilities found in non-compliance are subject to penalties up to \$37,500 per day. In 2010, the EPA fined six facilities, including hotels and other businesses in the Pacific Territories, which failed to submit reports for large, stored amounts of diesel, propane, chlorine or other hazardous substances. Such reports are needed by response planners to ensure the safety of the community, firemen and other emergency responders in the event of a disaster, such as a chemical release, fire or typhoon. Additional information about program requirements, reporting forms and reporting contacts may be found in featured story at website: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/superfund/chem-safety/> (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DONATION TO SAN ISIDRO FIESTA

Tan Siu Lin Foundation donated \$500 worth of juices and cookies to the 2011 San Isidro Fiesta in Rota. In photo during the Feb. 16 turnover ceremony at TSL Plaza are Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan along with Senate President Paul Manglona and Sens. Juan Ayuyu and Luis Crisostomo.

Business

Oil industry worries Libya unrest could spread

By JOSHUA FREED and
JANE WARDELL
AP BUSINESS WRITERS

The first major protests to hit an OPEC country put the oil industry on edge Monday, sending crude prices jumping and raising speculation about the use of emergency oil reserves that have only been touched twice in two decades.

In addition to Libya, the industry is closely watching protests in Algeria, Bahrain and Iran, the second-largest crude exporter in the OPEC behind Saudi Arabia.

"The concerns in the market go beyond Libya," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. "It's unlikely we're going to see any meaningful disruption of oil from the Middle East or North Africa, but the spread of this unrest has raised anxieties."

Libya is more important to the oil industry than Egypt or Tunisia, scenes of the previous upheaval in North Africa. Oil passes through Egypt, where protesters recently forced out longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak, but Egypt is not an oil exporter. Tunisia is a minor exporter.

Bahrain is not a big oil exporter either, but it has some political similarities to Saudi Arabia, which sits atop the world's largest reserves of conventional crude.

Libya exports some 1.1 million barrels of crude a day from production of 1.6 million barrels - ranking it about 17th among world oil producers. And it has the largest proven oil reserves in Africa.

The United States, the world's largest consumer of oil, does not import any petroleum from Libya. But disruptions elsewhere can raise the price of oil worldwide.

Even more worrisome for oil markets is the potential for instability to spread to other countries in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

"The elephant in the room that has the potential to really ignite the markets is Saudi Arabia," said senior commodity analyst Edward Meir at MF Global in New York.

Oil prices jumped Monday to \$8.05 a barrel, or 9 percent, with benchmark crude for April



In this Feb. 16, 2011 photo, Brian Sprague returns the nozzle to the pump after filling his car's tank with gas in Philadelphia.

delivery at \$97.76 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Regular trading in U.S. markets was closed for the Presidents' Day holiday, and the thin trading volumes had the potential to amplify

price fluctuations.

Some in the industry had their eye on world oil reserves that can be tapped if production is threatened or curtailed. The reserves have only been opened twice—after Hurri-

cane Katrina in 2005 and the first Gulf War in 1991.

David Fyfe, head of the oil industry and markets division at the International Energy Agency, said the agency's member countries have re-

EU, oil companies begin Libya evacuations

ROME (AP)—European countries sent planes and ferries to Libya to evacuate their citizens, and some oil and gas companies pulled their foreign staff out and suspended operations, as anti-government protests spread to Tripoli for the first time.

Many countries had already urged their citizens to avoid nonessential travel to Libya, or recommended that those already there leave on commercial flights. But as Libya's bloody crackdown against protesters moved to the capital, countries and companies alike stepped up their contingency plans.

Oil companies, including Italy's Eni, Royal Dutch Shell PLC, U.K.-based BP and Germany's Wintershall, a subsidiary of BASF, were evacuating their expat workers or their families or both. BP and Wintershall said they were temporarily suspending operations; Eni said production continued normally.

Libya is one of the world's

biggest oil producers and has the largest proven oil reserves in the whole of Africa. Eni, Italy's largest natural gas and oil company, has operated there for more than 50 years and is the biggest foreign player in Libya.

Passengers returning Monday night to Rome aboard an Alitalia aircraft from Tripoli said they had heard gunfire through the night in the Libyan capital, but an eerie silence had blanketed the city as they drove to the airport in the morning.

"We had civilians with guns on every corner, so it is not safe at all," said Zoran Siljak, a Serbian working in Libya for a paint company. "Last night, there were shots through the night, there was fighting in the streets."

Portugal and Austria sent C-130 planes to pick up their citizens and other EU nationals, and Turkey sent two ferries to fetch construction workers stranded by the unrest. The Dutch government was seek-

ing clearance to send a military plane to evacuate its citizens on Tuesday and Russian gas company Gazprom was dispatching a plane that was due to return Tuesday, a Russian news agency reported.

"We are very worried about the situation in Libya," Spain's foreign minister, Trinidad Jimenez, said at a regular monthly EU ministerial meeting in Brussels that was largely focused on the unrest across the Middle East. "At the same time, we are coordinating the possible evacuation of EU citizens from Libya."

Turkey was sending two ferries to Libya to evacuate Turks—mostly construction workers. The decision came hours after authorities at the airport in Benghazi, the country's second largest city and a center of the protests, would not allow a Turkish Airlines plane to land, forcing it to circle the airport and then return to Istanbul.

serves of 1.6 billion barrels of oil—equivalent to the amount of crude the U.S. imports in almost six months.

The agency's members are mainly oil-consuming industrial nations such as the United States, Japan, Britain and Germany.

Using government oil supplies to stabilize the oil market is "very much a last resort, but it's worth pointing out that it exists and has been used before when supplies have been disrupted," he said.

Fyfe said there are differences between now and the last time the world experienced widespread oil shortages and price increases, in 2008, including more spare capacity and greater OPEC production.

J.P. Morgan analyst Lawrence Eagles wrote in a note to investors that history shows that political turmoil does not necessarily hurt the flow of oil.

"Any government in an oil-

producing country will ultimately need the revenue from oil production," he wrote. "As such, there is a natural tendency for oil flows to continue over time."

American oil companies were barred from doing business in Libya until the U.S. lifted its embargo in 2004. Since then, contracts between Libya and foreign oil companies have been frustrating for both sides, said PFC Energy analyst David Kirsch.

The amount of oil and natural gas discovered has been disappointing, and oil companies have felt that the contracts were not generous enough, given the limited size of new discoveries, Kirsch said.

If the Gadhafi government falls, oil companies may find that the new government demands terms even more favorable to Libya and less favorable to the oil companies, Kirsch said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Volvo planning factory in west China's Chengdu

SHANGHAI (AP)—Chinese officials say Volvo Car Corp. plans a manufacturing base in the western Chinese city of Chengdu as it aims for expansion in the world's biggest auto market following its buyout by independent automaker Geely. An official with the city's Automotive Industry Investment Bureau confirmed a report Tuesday that the Swedish carmaker has chosen Chengdu as a manufacturing base, but would not give further details. The Volvo factory reportedly will be focused on making compact and economy cars on a large scale. Shanghai and the northern city of Daqing also had been vying for new Volvo factories following the acquisition last year by Geely.

Moody's downgrades Japan rating outlook on debt

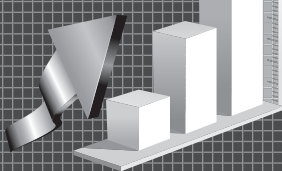
TOKYO (AP)—Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday downgraded its outlook for Japan's credit rating for the first time in almost nine years because of concerns over its massive national debt. The rating agency changed its outlook for Japan's Aa2 rating from stable to negative. Moody's said it was

the first negative action against Japan since May 2002. In January, Standard & Poor's cut Japan's credit rating from AA to AA- for the first time in about nine years due to concerns over ballooning debt. Moody's said the downgrade was due to "increasing uncertainty" over Japan's ability to implement effective measures to rein in rising debt.

4Q credit card data shows use returning to normal

NEW YORK (AP)—Consumers used more plastic during the holiday season without ballooning their balances, and the delinquency rate for credit-card accounts fell to its lowest point in 15 years. That's a positive combination reflected in the latest quarterly analysis from the credit reporting agency TransUnion. The company also noted that the number of new credit cards issued during the last three months of 2010 increased by 19 percent over the same period in 2009. It was just the second straight quarter when more cards were issued. That hasn't happened since late 2007. The data is drawn from 27 million anonymous TransUnion credit reports, which represents about 10 percent of the company's database.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,391.20
+73.11
+0.59%

S&P
1,343.01
+2.58
+0.19%

NASDAQ
2,833.95
+2.37
+0.08%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9978
British Pound	0.6186
Canadian Dollar	0.9862
Chinese Yuan	6.5774
Euro	0.7359

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7893
Indian Rupee	45.1554
Indonesian Rupiah	8,871.61
Japanese Yen	83.3817
Malaysian Ringgit	3.0527
New Zealand Dollar	1.3328

Philippine Peso	43.6106
Singapore Dollar	1.2806
South Korean Won	1,125.98
Swiss Franc	0.9486
Taiwan Dollar	29.5615
Thailand Baht	30.7284

Nation

Neither side budging in Wisconsin union fight

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—No resolution appeared imminent Monday to the stalemate over union rights in Wisconsin, leaving Senate Republicans resigned to forge ahead with less-controversial business such as tax breaks for dairy farmers and commending the Green Bay Packers on winning the Super Bowl.

As the standoff entered its second week, none of the major players offered any signs of backing down in a high-stakes game of political chicken that has riveted the nation and led to ongoing public protests that drew a high of 68,000 people on Saturday. Thousands more braved cold winds and temperatures in the 20s to march again on Monday, waving signs that said "Stop the attack on Wisconsin families" and "solidarity."

The 14 Senate Democrats who skipped town Thursday to indefinitely delay a vote on Republican Gov. Scott Walker's bill stripping most collective bargaining rights from nearly all public employees remained missing in action for a fifth day.

Walker refused to back down and again called on the Democrats to return and vote on the bill. "For those 14 Senate Democrats, you've had your time," he said. "It's time for them to come back and participate in democracy."

The Democrats have been far from in hiding. They've done numerous television interviews and two of them even participated, via telephone from an undisclosed location, in a brief



The Rev. Jesse Jackson, near right center of photo, takes the stage amidst tens of thousands of protesters gathered at the state Capitol in Madison, Wis., Friday, Feb. 18, 2011.

meeting to schedule the Senate's session on Tuesday.

"You have shut down the people's government, and that is not acceptable," Republican Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald said to them during the meeting.

Both the Senate and Assembly planned to be in session on Tuesday to take up the bill, but at least one of the missing Democrats needed to show up for a vote to be taken in the Senate.

Assembly Democrats planned to offer dozens of amendments that could push a vote into Wednesday or later.

Although Tuesday's list of items, including the resolution honoring the Packers, is largely bipartisan, Fitzgerald hinted that he might try to push some more controversial ones later, even if the Democrats aren't back. Among the possibilities is a vote on the question of whether voters should be required to

show identification at the polls.

Democratic Senate Minority Leader Mark Miller said Democrats were waiting for Walker to compromise.

"It's right in front of the governor," Miller said. "He just needs to pick it up and allow us to move on. ... This is a no-brainer."

Under one deal, the unions said they would accept paying more for benefits as Walker wants but still retain their collective bargaining rights. An-

other compromise offered by Republican Sen. Dale Schultz would remove collective bargaining rights just for two years.

Walker has repeatedly rejected both offers, saying local governments and school districts can't be hamstrung by the often lengthy collective bargaining process and need to have more flexibility to deal with up to \$1 billion in cuts he will propose in his budget next week and into the future.

Midwest digging out after more snow, ice

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A major snow storm dealt another winter wallop to Wisconsin, Michigan and northern Ohio on Monday as it moved east out of Minnesota leaving more than a foot of fresh snow in its wake.

Operations were returning to normal at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport after the storm prompted Delta Airlines to cancel hundreds of flights Sunday, although hour-long delays were reported.

Airport spokeswoman Melissa Scovronski said about 60 departures and 100 arrivals were canceled early Monday, but she said she didn't expect more because the weather was clearing.

The National Weather Service reported the storm dropped 12.5 inches of snow at the airport by Monday afternoon.

The southern Minneapolis suburbs had even more snow, with Eden Prairie hitting 17 inches and Bloomington a close second at 16 inches, but the highest state total was 19 inches in Madison in far western Minnesota. The storm had dwindled by Monday evening.

The snow fell from a storm that on Sunday spanned most of the upper Midwest and dropped more than 10 inches on towns in the Dakotas, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Pennsylvania.

On Monday, the weather service said snow continued to fall across the upper Midwest and the northern part of the Ohio Valley. Forecasters declared winter storm warnings throughout those areas.

Ice downed power lines in Michigan and Ohio, leaving tens of thousands of people without electricity for at least parts of Monday. Hundreds of flights were canceled at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

Stepmother indicted in death of disabled NC girl

HICKORY, N.C. (AP)—The stepmother of a 10-year-old disabled girl was indicted Monday on a charge she murdered the child, and officials released the latest gruesome detail in the case of little, freckle-faced Zahra Baker: Her head is missing.

Medical examiners said Zahra's death was caused by "undetermined homicidal violence." An autopsy was done even though authorities haven't recovered many bones, most notably the girl's skull, months

after she was reported missing. Several bones showed cutting tool marks consistent with dismemberment.

The revelation came in documents released by the state's chief medical examiner shortly after officials in western North Carolina held a news conference about the second-degree murder charge. Authorities said Elisa Baker, who has been jailed since the weekend the girl was reported missing, desecrated Zahra's remains to cover up the slaying.

Prosecutor James Gaither Jr. said at the news conference that there was no credible evidence to suggest anyone else was involved in Zahra's slaying. Hickory Police Chief Tom Adkins called the murder charge "a milestone of holding someone accountable that members of team Zahra have been working toward since the first words spoken on that 911 call."

Attorneys for Elisa Baker did not return calls seeking comment Monday.

Investigators would continue to pursue leads until the trial begins, Adkins said.

Documents show that police learned months ago that the girl was dismembered after she died. The lack of a head may help to explain the absence of an exact cause of death - and why it took four months for a charge.

Warrants in the case have indicated that Elisa Baker at one point was providing police information about what happened to Zahra's body. The warrants

have never revealed how Zahra, who was reported missing Oct. 9 but was last seen weeks earlier, may have died.

Police eventually found the girl's remains in different places around western North Carolina, and Elisa Baker told authorities that she had been dismembered, according to warrants. Elisa Baker was charged with obstructing justice in the investigation by writing a fake ransom note that was found when the girl was reporting missing.



ACROSS THE NATION

1 dead in California church bus crash

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—A bus carrying members of a Korean church home from a weekend retreat in Southern California slid off a mountain highway after colliding with another vehicle, killing one person, officials said. The victim was one of 22 people on the bus late Monday morning when it collided with a Nis-

san Murano traveling in the opposite direction and slid 50 feet down a mountainside after hitting a power pole about 70 miles east of Los Angeles, California Highway Patrol Officer Mario Lopez said. Investigators were measuring skid marks to determine how fast the vehicles were traveling and if either one had crossed over the road's center dividing line. Lopez said alcohol did not ap-

pear to be a factor in the crash.

Hijacked Ca. sailor sought to mix faith, adventure

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A friend and former professor of a California man whose yacht was hijacked by Somali pirates said Sunday that Scott Adam wanted to combine his love of adventure with his faith by spreading Bibles around the world. Pro-

fessor Robert K. Johnston of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena told The Associated Press that Adam - who last year earned a master of theology degree from the school—had sent friends e-mails detailing his international sailing trip. But Adam went silent Feb. 12 to avoid revealing the location of his yacht, the Quest, to pirates. "He was sailing around the world and serving God, two

of his passions," Johnston said.

Alaska state rep objects to airport search demand

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—An Alaska state lawmaker is making her way back to the state capital of Juneau after refusing what she called an invasive pat-down search at a Seattle airport. Rep. Sharon Cissna, D-Anchorage, underwent a body scan as she

was preparing to leave Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on Sunday. In a statement released late Monday, she said scan results displayed—as they had during a prior episode three months earlier—the scars from her breast cancer. This caught the attention of the Transportation Safety Administration, Cissna said, but she refused to submit to the "invasive, probing hands of a stranger" this time.

Asia

Quake in New Zealand kills at least 65

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—A powerful earthquake collapsed buildings at the height of a busy workday in New Zealand's city of Christchurch, killing at least 65 people and trapping dozens Tuesday in one of the country's worst natural disasters.

"It is a just a scene of utter devastation," Prime Minister John Key said after rushing to the city within hours of the quake. He said the death toll was 65, and may rise. "This may be New Zealand's darkest day," he told TV One News.

It was the second time a major quake hit the city of 350,000 in five months. Tuesday's 6.3-magnitude temblor struck closer to downtown than a quake that heavily damaged Christchurch last September but caused no deaths when it struck before dawn on a weekend.

Video footage Tuesday showed some multistory buildings collapsed in on themselves, and others with walls that had collapsed into the streets, strewn with bricks and shattered concrete. Sidewalks and roads were cracked and split, and thousands of dazed, screaming and crying residents wandered through the streets as sirens blared. Groups of people helped victims clutching bleedings wounds, and others were carried to private vehicles in makeshift stretchers fashioned from rugs or bits of debris.

The spire of the iconic stone Christchurch Cathedral toppled into a central city square.

Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker declared a state of emergency and ordered people to evacuate the city center. Troops were deployed to help people get out and to throw up a security



In this image made from video run by New Zealand's TV3, people rush past damaged buildings in Christchurch, New Zealand Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2011.



cordon around the stricken area, said Deputy Prime Minister Bill English.

The airport was closed, and Christchurch Hospital was briefly evacuated before it was deemed safe and patients were returned. Power and telephone lines were knocked out, and pipes burst, flooding the streets with water. Some cars parked on the street were buried under rubble.

Some people were stuck in office towers and firefighters climbed extension ladders to pluck people trapped on roofs to safety. A crane lifted a team of rescuers on a platform to one group of survivors in a high-rise. Plumes of gray smoke drifted into the air at several points around the city from fires burn-

ing in the rubble.

Key held an emergency Cabinet meeting then rushed to the stricken city to observe the scene.

He said eight or nine buildings had collapsed, and that officials were working as fast as they can to free an unknown number of people who were trapped.

New Zealand police said in a statement that reports of fatalities included that two buses had been crushed by falling buildings.

Gary Moore said he and 19 other colleagues were trapped in their twelfth floor office after the stairwell collapsed in the quake. He did not know if people on other floors were trapped.

"We watched the cathedral collapse

out our window while we were holding onto the walls," Moore said. "Every aftershock sends us rushing under the desks. It's very unnerving but we can clearly see there are other priorities out the window. There has been a lot of damage and I guess people are attending to that before they come and get us."

The multistory Pyne Gould Guinness Building, housing more than 200 workers, collapsed and an unknown number of people are trapped inside. Television pictures showed rescuers, many of them office workers, dragging severely injured people from the rubble. Many had blood streaming down their faces. Screams could be heard from those still trapped.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PH volcano blast prompts hundreds to flee

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Hundreds of villagers fled to safety Monday after a restive volcano belched ash and smoke into the sky after a monthlong lull, officials said. Despite Mount Bulusan's ash explosion, its 13th since November, there were no signs of an imminent eruption involving magma pushing out of the cone, said government chief volcanologist Renato Solidum. The huge plume of grayish smoke shot up to more than a mile (2 kilometers) toward the blue sky, with the ash drifting southwest toward four farming towns in Sorsogon province, where about 1,200 villagers fled to emergency shelters and houses of relatives, said Benito Ramos, who heads the government's disaster-response agency.

Filipino envoy looks to heal rift with Taiwanese

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A Filipino envoy says he is visiting Taiwan to heal an "unfortunate" row over his country's deportations of 14 Taiwanese to China but he did not apologize. Taiwan has been demanding an apology since Manila deported the 14 Taiwanese earlier this month to face charges they defrauded Chinese citizens in an investment scam. Former Filipino Senator Manuel Roxas said Monday in Taipei he aims to "mend whatever misunderstandings and difficulties" have happened. The deportations have troubled Taiwan because they appeared to suggest China—and not Taiwan itself—has jurisdiction over the Taiwanese.

Japan hopes pandas from China will help warm ties

TOKYO (AP)—Japan hopes that two giant pandas from China will help warm bilateral ties strained over a territorial spat—and give Tokyo's economy a jolt, too. The two 5-year-old pandas arrived at Tokyo's Ueno Zoo late Monday. They'll be the zoo's first since the 2008 death of its beloved giant panda Ling Ling. The Ueno area has been gearing up for the pandas' arrival for weeks, with banners carrying panda cartoons and shops selling novelty goods. Japanese media crews were camped at the zoo. "The pandas are finally coming to town," said beaming Masahiro Kayano, a jewelry store owner in Ueno. "We are so excited."

PH govt, rebels aim for 2012 peace deal

NESBRU, Norway (AP)—Negotiators for the Philippines government and communist rebels agreed Monday on a road map for continued peace talks aimed at resolving one of Asia's longest-running conflicts by June 2012.

Ending the first round of long-stalled peace negotiations in Norway, the two sides agreed to meet again in April and every two months after that.

"Tonight finds us on the zigzag path to peace," government negotiator Alexander Padilla said. "But we have taken the first step."

Rebel negotiator Luis Jalandoni said a cease-fire declared by both sides during the weeklong talks outside the Norwegian capital "served as a confidence builder" for the first formal peace negotiations in six years.

"It has been a roller coaster ride all the way, and until a few moments ago, no one could be quite sure whether the talks would end up on a high or a low point," he said. Jalandoni added that "just and lasting peace" could only be achieved through socio-economic and political reforms in the Philippines.

Both sides said they were considering extending the cease-fire but no decisions had been made.

The rebels said Sunday they had freed a policeman and a soldier and would release a third captive partly to strengthen the negotiations.

A fourth captive, army soldier Bryan Canedo was still being held and questioned after he was seized Feb. 7 in Compostela Valley Province, the rebels said.

Battle setbacks have weakened the Maoist rebels, who reached their peak in the mid-1980s, when their fighters numbered about 25,000. However, the military still regards the rebels as the country's most serious security threat

after Muslim rebels and al-Qaida-linked militants in the south.

Government negotiators hope that last year's election of reformist President Benigno Aquino III on the promise he would reduce poverty and improve governance will soften the rural-based insurgency, which has survived decades of military crackdown.

Peace talks stalled in 2004 after the

Al-Qaida figure believed killed in US drone strike

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—An Iraqi al-Qaida operative was believed to be one of 15 militants killed in two U.S. missile strikes in Pakistan's tribal belt along the Afghan border Monday, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

The officials said the man, identified as Abu Zaid al-Iraqi, handled the terrorist group's finances in Pakistan. He was not known to be on any published U.S. lists of wanted al-Qaida leaders, and U.S. officials do not normally acknowledge the existence of the CIA-led missile program or talk about who is being killed.

The two strikes, coming roughly 24 hours apart, were the first since the arrest of a U.S. citizen who shot two Pakistanis in late January. There had been speculation that Washington had put a hold on the disputed tactic while it

pressured Pakistan to release the American, saying he has diplomatic immunity and acted in self-defense.

In the first strike, which occurred overnight Monday, three missiles hit a house in the village of Kaza Panga in the Azam Warsak area of the South Waziristan tribal region, said two intelligence officials.

Al-Iraqi was believed to be one of several foreigners among the seven dead. He was described as being in his late 30s and going by the local name "Ali Khan." Al-Iraqi is believed to have shifted to South Waziristan in 2008 after time spent in Afghanistan.

The officials said they learned of his death through agents on the ground in South Waziristan, as well as sources in the Taliban. Nonetheless, independent confirmation of such deaths is

rebels accused then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's government of instigating their inclusion in U.S. and European terrorist blacklists.

A joint statement following the talks in Norway said a draft comprehensive agreement on ending hostilities "may be completed and signed by the Panels in June 2012."

Both government and rebel negotiators said the outcome of the first round of talks was uncertain until the very end because of a lack of trust between the parties.

nearly impossible because of the remote, dangerous nature of the areas involved. Rarely are bodies made available as proof.

Pakistan's tribal regions have long been key hideouts for Taliban and al-Qaida fighters, including many from other countries. While Pakistan's military has waged offensives in various parts of the northwest, the U.S. has also used drone-fired missiles to target insurgents there.

Most of the missiles hit North Waziristan, a region populated with several militant groups whose primary focus is attacking U.S. and NATO troops across the border in Afghanistan. The Pakistani military has not taken action in that area because it says its priority is tame militant groups launching attacks on Pakistan's soil.

World

Gadhafi goes on Libyan TV amid wave of protests

CAIRO (AP)—Deep rifts opened in Moammar Gadhafi's regime, with Libyan government officials at home and abroad resigning, air force pilots defecting and a bloody crackdown on protest in the capital of Tripoli, where cars and buildings were burned. Gadhafi went on state TV early Tuesday to attempt to show he was still in charge.

World leaders expressed outrage Monday at the "vicious forms of repression" used against the demonstrators.

The longest serving Arab leader appeared briefly on TV to dispel rumors that he had fled. Sitting in a car in front of what appeared to be his residence and holding an umbrella out of the passenger side door, he told an interviewer that he had wanted to go to the capital's Green Square to talk to his supporters, but the rain stopped him.

"I am here to show that I am in Tripoli and not in Venezuela. Don't believe those misleading dog stations," Gadhafi said, referring to the media reports that he had left the country. The video clip and comments lasted less than a minute—unusual for the mercurial leader, who is known for rambling speeches that often last hours.

■ ■ ■
UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Key Libyan diplomats disowned Moammar Gadhafi's regime on Monday and the country's deputy U.N. ambassador called on the longtime ruler to step down because of its bloody crackdown on protesters.

The Libyan ambassador to the United States also said he could no longer support Gadhafi, the ambassador to India planned to resign, and the ambassador to Bangladesh quit to protest the killing of family members by government troops. Almost all Libyan diplomats at the United Nations backed deputy ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi's pleas to Gadhafi to end his 40-year rule and to the international community to intervene.

The U.N. spokesperson's office said late Monday that the Security Council had scheduled consultations on the situation in Libya for Tuesday morning. Earlier, Dabbashi had called for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to take action to stop the bloodshed.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told reporters in Beverly Hills, California, that he hopes that "the Security Council will take this matter on an urgent basis."

■ ■ ■
Pro-Gadhafi militia drove through Tripoli with loudspeakers and told people not to leave their homes, wit-



In this video image broadcast on Libyan state television early Tuesday Feb. 22, 2011, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is shown. Gadhafi appeared for less than a minute on state television and made brief remarks to say he was in the capital Tripoli and deny rumors he had to fled to Venezuela amid the unrest sweeping his country.

Libya timeline

Days after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was forced from power, Libyans called for protests in their country. Hundreds have been injured or killed in clashes.

Feb. 14 Calls go out for peaceful demonstrations against Moammar Gadhafi, the leader of Libya for more than 40 years

Feb. 16 Protests of support in Benghazi for lawyer and human rights activist Fathia Terbil

Feb. 17 "Day of Rage" to remember five-year anniversary of incident when security forces killed protesters

Feb. 18 Pro-government demonstrators in Tripoli; protesters in Benghazi claim they're under attack by pro-government security forces, reports of at least 20 killed

Feb. 19 Protests have spread across the country including Beyida, Ajdabiya and Misurata; reports that 84 people have been killed since demonstrations started

Feb. 20 Reports that protesters have taken control of Benghazi; anti-government demonstrations break out in Tripoli; death toll at 219 people nationwide

Feb. 21 Gadhafi's son appears on state television and warns protesters that the country could fall into a civil war

Source: ESRI, BBC, Reuters



nesses said, as security forces sought to keep the unrest that swept eastern parts of the country—leaving the second-largest city of Benghazi in protesters' control—from overwhelming the capital of 2 million people.

State TV said the military had "stormed the hideouts of saboteurs"

and urged the public to back security forces. Protesters called for a demonstration in Tripoli's central Green Square and in front of Gadhafi's residence, but witnesses in various neighborhoods described a scene of intimidation: helicopters hovering above the main seaside boulevard and pro-Gad-

hafi gunmen firing from moving cars and even shooting at the facades of homes to terrify the population.

Youths trying to gather in the streets scattered and ran for cover amid gunfire, according to several witnesses, who like many reached in Tripoli by The Associated Press spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal. They said people wept over bodies of the dead left in the street.

Warplanes swooped low over Tripoli in the evening and snipers took up position on roofs, apparently to stop people outside the capital from joining protests, according to Mohammed Abdul-Malek, a London-based opposition activist in touch with residents.

Gadhafi appeared to have lost the support of at least one major tribe, several military units and his own diplomats, including Libya's ambassador in Washington, Ali Adjali. Deputy U.N. Ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi accused the longest-serving Arab leader of committing genocide against his own people in the current crisis.

The eruption of turmoil in the capital after seven days of protests and bloody clashes in Libya's eastern cities sharply escalated the challenge to Gadhafi. His security forces have unleashed the bloodiest crackdown of any Arab country against the wave of protests sweeping the region, which toppled leaders of Egypt and Tunisia. At least 233 people have been killed so far, according to New York-based Human Rights Watch. The difficulty in getting information from Libya made obtaining a precise death toll impossible.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called on Gadhafi to "stop this unacceptable bloodshed" and said the world was watching the events "with alarm."

British Prime Minister David Cameron, visiting neighboring Egypt, called the crackdown "appalling."

"The regime is using the most vicious forms of repression against people who want to see that country—which is one of the most closed and one of the most autocratic—make progress," he said.

Communications to Tripoli appeared to have been cut, and residents could not be reached by phone from outside the country. State TV showed video of hundreds of Gadhafi supporters rallying in Green Square, waving palm fronds and pictures of him.

State TV quoted Gadhafi's son, Seif al-Islam, as saying the military conducted airstrikes on remote areas, away from residential neighborhoods, on munitions warehouses, denying reports that warplanes attacked

Tripoli and Benghazi.

Jordanians who fled Libya gave horrific accounts of a "bloodbath" in Tripoli, saying they saw people shot, scores of burned cars and shops, and what appeared to be armed mercenaries who looked as if they were from other African countries.

Many billboards and posters of Gadhafi were smashed or burned along a road to downtown Tripoli, "emboldening" protesters, said a man who lives on the western outskirts of the capital.

The first major protests to hit an OPEC country—and major supplier to Europe—sent oil prices jumping, and the industry has begun eyeing reserves touched only after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the first Gulf War in 1991.

Tripoli was largely shut down Monday, with schools, government offices and most stores closed, except for a few bakeries, said residents, who hunkered down in their homes. Armed members of pro-government organizations called "Revolutionary Committees" hunted for protesters in Tripoli's old city, said one protester named Fathi.

Members of the militia occupied the city center and no one was able to walk in the street, said one resident who lived near Green Square and described a "very, very violent" situation.

"We know that the regime is reaching its end and Libyans are not retreating," the resident said. "People have a strange determination after all that happened."

The heaviest fighting so far has been in the east. Security forces in Benghazi opened fire Sunday on protesters storming police stations and government buildings. But in several instances, units of the military sided with protesters.

By Monday, protesters had claimed control of the city, overrunning its main security headquarters, called the Katiba.

Celebrating protesters raised the flag of Libya's old monarchy, toppled in 1969 in a Gadhafi-led military coup, over Benghazi's main courthouse and on tanks around the city.

"Gadhafi needs one more push and he is gone," said lawyer Amal Roqaie.

Gadhafi's son went on state TV early Monday with a sometimes confused speech of nearly 40 minutes, vowing to fight and warning that if protests continue, a civil war will erupt in which Libya's oil wealth "will be burned."

"Moammar Gadhafi, our leader, is leading the battle in Tripoli, and we are with him," he said. "The armed forces are with him. Tens of thousands are heading here to be with him. We will fight until the last man, the last woman, the last bullet," Seif al-Islam Gadhafi said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Exiled opposition leader to return to Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—A prominent opposition figure accused by Bahrain of plotting against the state plans to return from London, an aide said Monday, in a move that could bolster protesters and force authorities into difficult choices. Hassan Meshaima, head of a group known as Haq, is scheduled to arrive late Tuesday as the embattled monarchy tries to engage demonstrators

in talks aimed at easing the week-long series of clashes and marches that have deeply divided the strategic Gulf nation. A rights activist and supporter, Abbas Omran, confirmed Meshaima's plans, but gave no further details on his objections once he returns after eight months in self-exile.

36 killed in Mali stampede

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—At least 36 people were killed in a stampede Mon-

day when a crowd surged against a metal barrier after a Muslim ceremony, Mali's minister of interior security and civil protection said. Sadio Gassame said the stampede at Bamako's Modibo Keita Stadium took place during a ceremony marking the Muslim holy period of Maouloud. The incident occurred as tens of thousands of people were attempting to leave through a metallic enclosure. Anguished families gathered outside the capital's Gabriel Toure Hos-

pital where the staff was preparing to post a list of the dead. At least 64 others were wounded.

Congo colonel gets 20 years after rape trial

BARAKA, Congo (AP)—One by one, the rape survivors relived their attacks for a panel of judges: A newly married bride flung her torn, bloodied clothing onto the courtroom floor. A mother of six dropped to her knees, raised

her arms to heaven and cried out for peace. Nearly 50 women poured out their stories in a wave of anguish that ended Monday with the conviction of an army colonel for crimes against humanity - a landmark verdict in this Central African country where thousands are believed to be raped each year by soldiers and militia groups who often go unpunished. It was the first time a commanding officer had been tried in such an attack.

Campus Life

'A long history of family tradition embracing Japanese culture'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison described last week's 34th Annual Cultural Day as testament to the islands' long tradition of embracing Japanese culture.

This after he disclosed that last Thursday also marked 25 years of friendship with Japan's Seisa Gakuen Group, which brought a 170-member delegation this year.

With the theme "Uniting Cultures," Garrison lauded the strong immersion of two cultures through the school's participate-and-learn program, or PAL.

Besides the hundreds of students and spectators last Thursday, Garrison noted the presence of MHS "older brothers and sisters" and "mothers and fathers" who have been actually cultural exchange partners in the past.

"Over the 25 years, this grows into a strong partnership with our school and the Seisa Gakuen Group," said Garrison, adding that the school's homestead program with the Japanese group has greatly contributed to the "growth" of "camaraderie and friendship."

Last November, a group of



MONETH G. DEPOSA
Local students perform an island dance number for visiting Japanese students during Marianas High School's 34th Annual Cultural Day held last Thursday. This year marks the 25th year of friendship between the MHS students and the Seisa Gakuen Group.

students from Seisa Gakuen were accommodated by local students and their families as part of their homestead program.

MHS, in the past, also sent 18 of its students for a 10-day cultural exchange in Japan.

"I truly hope that you all enjoy this wonderful momentous

occasion. The staff and students of many Seisa schools, have shared their love and commitment to this program for many years, and have warmed many hearts over the past 25 years with our students and the people of CNMI. Through its founder, Mr. Yasuo Miyazawa, my good



MONETH G. DEPOSA
Japanese students of the Seisa Gakuen Group pose for a photo after last Thursday's parade of cultures, which is among the highlights of Marianas High School's 34th Annual Cultural Day

friend and brother, I am sure that we will continue the long tradition for many years to come," Garrison said in his message.

Among the highlights of the festivities were the traditional parade of cultures and the various cultural performances and presentations.

MHS also conducted its usual booth competition for freshmen, sophomore, junior, and senior levels where they earned points in the end of the school year.

The Seisa Gakuen Group arrived last Feb. 16 and was accorded a special welcome dinner. An official welcoming ceremony

with special performances were also conducted Thursday as well as some cultural exchange activities such as mwar and bead-making, coconut husking, Japanese calligraphy, making Japanese clothing, and drum playing. The group left Saipan Sunday.

Educators seek out more minorities to study abroad

By **KATHY MATHESON**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—When Sade Adeyina's college roommate started bugging her about studying abroad together, she never thought she could afford a semester in Italy.

Yet the friendly peer pressure—combined with financial aid and timely academic advising—led Adeyina to say "Arrivederci!" to Temple University in Philadelphia and head overseas for the first time.

Educators want more minority students to follow the lead of Adeyina, an African-American graphic design major. Foreign study is seen as crucial to student development and even as a key to national security, yet minority participation badly lags their overall presence on college campuses.

"It's really a matter of persuading young students of color that this is possible for them and this is necessary for them," said Peggy Blumenthal, executive vice president of the Institute of International Education. "You come back changed, more self-confident."

About 81 percent of study-abroad students are white, although whites represent 63 percent of enrollment in higher education, according to 2008-09

data released in November by the New York-based institute.

Blacks comprise 4.2 percent of study-abroad students but are 13.5 percent of the college population. Latinos are 6 percent of study-abroad participants but nearly 12 percent of higher ed students. Asian-Americans, representing 6.8 percent of college students, are slightly over-represented in study abroad at 7.3 percent.

Barriers often include lack of funds, fear of racism, worries about delayed graduation, and few role models—either family or faculty—who have traveled abroad.

But better marketing might help. Instead of touting foreign study as an essential cultural experience, universities could stress it as a path toward self-reliance, independent thinking and valuable job skills, said Augustana College researcher Mark Salisbury.

"Minority students don't need to seek out cross-cultural experiences by traveling to another country because in most cases—especially as students at majority white postsecondary institutions—they already interact across cultural differences every day," Salisbury and two co-authors wrote in a study to be published in March by Research in Higher Education.



AP
In this Jan. 19, 2011 photo, Sade Adeyina smiles during an interview with The Associated Press at Temple University, in Philadelphia.

Congress began to address the disparity with the federally funded Gilman scholarship, which has provided study-abroad funds for low-income

wants to expand foreign learning opportunities overall with a bill to create the \$80 million Sen. Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation, a public-private entity that

ON THE NET

■ Gilman scholarship: <http://tinyurl.com/2dz77xp>

Pell Grant recipients since 2001. About 55 percent of last year's Gilman scholars were minorities, according to the Institute of International Education, which administers the program.

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill.,

would award grants to students and institutions.

Simon, the late Illinois lawmaker, had pushed for increased funding for international study after 9/11. Only about 1 percent of U.S. undergraduates study abroad.

"Expanding study abroad should be a national priority," Durbin said in 2009 while re-introducing the legislation, which has yet to win full congressional approval. "The future of the country depends on globally literate citizens who are at ease in the world."

In January, North Carolina A&T State University began working with the American Council on Education to promote international learning at historically black institutions, a project partly funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

Minnie Battle Mayes, director of A&T's international programs office, said it can be hard to get students who are from small towns, and without any worldly frame of reference, to look beyond the campus.

"Many times our students are North Carolinians, and coming to Greensboro is coming to the big city," Mayes said. "In this 21st century, you've got to be global."

Among the efforts at A&T is a new annual \$10 student fee to create an international education fund that offsets study abroad expenses. Mayes hopes it will help alleviate financial anxieties—sometimes unfounded—that can deter students from applying.

At Temple, about 9 percent

of students in the study-abroad program are black, more than double the national average. About 11 percent are Asian, also above average, while the 5 percent Hispanic involvement is slightly below the norm.

Though the university has a diverse student body to begin with—about one-third minority—Temple also starts "sending the message very, very early" that foreign study is essential, said Denise Connerty, assistant vice president for international affairs.

"There's some perception still that study abroad is a luxury, not integral to the academic experience," said Connerty. "It's not an extra. It shouldn't be."

Promotion is ubiquitous, from open houses for prospective students through freshman orientation and beyond. University President Ann Weaver Hart pays the processing fees for students getting their first passports.

For Adeyina, a 21-year-old from Burlington, N.J., the key was early academic advising that showed she could graduate on time if she went abroad as a sophomore. If she went junior year, she'd miss too many required classes in her graphic design major.

Now a vocal advocate for study abroad, Adeyina described her time in Rome as a challenge she met and embraced. She already feels it influencing in her art.

Life & Style

Novelist Ian McEwan criticizes Jewish settlements



English author Ian McEwan speaks at the awarding ceremony of the Jerusalem Prize, Israel's highest literary honor for foreign writers, at the Jerusalem International book fair in Jerusalem, Sunday, Feb. 20, 2011.

JERUSALEM (AP)—Renowned British novelist Ian McEwan accepted an Israeli literary prize in Jerusalem Sunday with harsh criticism of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, after British writers called on the author to stay home because of Israel's policies toward Palestinians.

At an acceptance ceremony for the Jerusalem Prize, McEwan praised Israel's technological and artistic advances but asked, "Where is Israel's political creativity?"

The novelist rebuked the "nihilism" of the Islamic militant Hamas, which has called for the destruction of Israel and has fired rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israeli towns. He also criticized Israel with the same term, saying "it is nihilism to make a long-term prison camp of the Gaza Strip."

Israel and Egypt have maintained a blockade of the seaside Palestinian territory since Hamas took over the enclave by force in 2007. Israel, the U.S. and EU consider Hamas

a terror organization.

McEwan, author of works including the best-selling book "Atonement," has won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction and the National Book Critics' Circle Fiction Award, among other literary prizes.

The Jerusalem Prize, Israel's most prestigious award for foreign writers, is awarded biannually. Other authors who have received the Jerusalem Prize include Simone de Beauvoir, Milan Kundera, Arthur Miller and Haruki Murakami.

A jury selected McEwan "for his love of people and concern for their right to self-realization," said jury chairman Menahem Ben-Sasson, president of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

McEwan told a Jerusalem audience, including Israeli President Shimon Peres and Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat, that the "distinguished judges" of the jury "seem to be demanding that I mention, and I must oblige, the continued evictions

and demolitions and relentless purchases of Palestinian homes in east Jerusalem."

Except for one man who booed the novelist as he delivered his speech, the audience warmly applauded McEwan.

The author was under pressure by a group of British writers not to travel to Israel and to reject the prize because of Israel's policies toward Palestinians.

The writers urged McEwan to join an international movement advocating a boycott of Israel.

In response, McEwan wrote that he is concerned about the situation of the Palestinians but said he supported "dialogue, engagement, and looking for ways in which literature, especially fiction, with its impulse to enter other minds, can reach across political divides."

On Friday, McEwan attended a weekly protest against Jewish settlers who bought a building and evicted longtime Arab residents of an east Jerusalem neighborhood.

Indonesians scramble to keep Hollywood films

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesians are fighting to keep Hollywood films in local theaters after the Motion Picture Association of America warned that a new tax on foreign-made movies could lead to studios pulling out of the country.

Indonesian authorities see the tax as a way to protect the domestic film industry.

The MPAA has responded by saying that last week's release of Oscar-nominated "Black Swan" could be the last for a Hollywood film in this nation of 237 million. Distributors from Europe and Asia have made similar warnings.

Film-lovers have taken to social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter to complain, while the country's largest cinema chain begged Monday for the government to drop the tax.

"We'll see theaters close one by one unless a solution is found," warned Noorca Massardie, spokesman of 21 Cineplex, which has more than 500 screens.

Studios participating in the boycott include Paramount Pictures, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Walt Disney Pictures, Twentieth Century Fox Film, Warner Bros Entertainment and Universal Pictures,

leaving Indonesian movie fans gasping.

They spend an estimated \$6.2 million a month at theaters.

"It's outrageous!" one woman wrote on Facebook. "They're taking away our right to watch high-quality films."

She noted that domestic industry, still in its infancy stage, leaves much to be desired.

Minister of Culture Jero Wacik said the tax will be reviewed—given the public outcry and concerns expressed by major theaters—with a final decision expected in two weeks.

He refused to provide details about the new tax hike.



People walk past movie banners outside a movie theater in Jakarta, Indonesia, Monday, Feb. 21, 2011.

'Spider-Man' musical asks famed director for help

NEW YORK (AP)—The trouble-plagued Broadway musical "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" has hired a veteran director to help with the show's sound and arrangements.

Show spokesman Rick Miramontez says Paul Bogaev (boh-GY'-ev) will be working with U2's Bono and The Edge

on the music for the \$65 million show.

Bogaev was musical director on Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Starlight Express" and "Sunset Boulevard."

"Spider-Man" is set to open March 15. It has been delayed several times, had a main actress quit and suffered numerous ac-

cidents that have left several actors hospitalized.

Bogaev won a Tony nomination in 2004 for his work on "Bombay Dreams." He has a history of working with rock musicians who are crafting musicals, including "Tarzan" with Phil Collins and "Aida" with Elton John.

Oliver Stone wins Boulder Film Festival award

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—Director Oliver Stone has been awarded a "Master of Cinema" award by the Boulder International Film Festival.

The Boulder Daily Camera reports the award was presented on Sunday, the last night of the festival. Stone's films have been nominated for 31 Academy

Awards, and he has won three Oscars: best adapted screenplay for "Midnight Express" and best director for "Platoon" and "Born on the Fourth of July."

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Gregorio Blas Magofña

Lovingly known as "Tun Goru"

Born on November 27, 1935 and was called to his eternal rest on Thursday, February 17, 2011.

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Father: †Vicente F. Megofña
Mother: †Vicenta B. Megofña
Brothers & Sisters: †Clara M. Sablan, †Emerinciana M. Taitano, †Caridad M. Falig, †Jose B. Magofña, †Jesus B. Magofña, †Miguel B. Magofña, †Pedro B. Magofña, †Santiago B. Magofña, †Cecilia B. Magofña, †Estella M. Pangelinan
Daughter: †Clarissa N. Magofña

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts of His:

Wife: Natalia M. Magofña
Children: **Fernando** N. Magofña (Terry), **Veronica** N. Magofña, **Ismael** N. Magofña (Mona), **Remedio** M. Pangelinan (Vaughn), **Robert** N. Magofña (Marcia), **Roque** N. Magofña (Melonie), **Melissa** Magofña-Camacho (Doru), **Shirley** Magofña-Rodriguez (Joe), **Joseph** M. Magofña (Kayla), **Eric** M. Magofña (Amy Lynn), **Gregorio** Magofña, Jr.

Nightly Rosary is being said at 7:30PM at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag.

On Friday, February 25, 2011 at 7:00AM, his remains will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center to Santa Remedios Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed by interment service at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

The Family

Hollywood rarely crowns British monarchy at Oscars



In this film publicity image provided by The Weinstein Company, Colin Firth portrays King George VI, left, and Helena Bonham Carter portrays the Queen Mother in a scene from, "The King's Speech."

DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It may seem as though Academy Awards voters would be a bunch of fawning monarchists, considering how often the ceremony has been a love fest for all things English. But British kings and queens generally wind up losers at the Oscars.

If "The King's Speech," a saga about Queen Elizabeth II's dad, makes good on its status as best-picture favorite on Sunday, it would become the first film with a British monarch as its central figure to win the top prize in the 83-year history of the Oscars.

Two films with a British king or queen as a supporting player—1966's "A Man for All Seasons" and 1998's "Shakespeare in Love"—did win best picture. Yet past contenders with a monarch in a lead role have always lost: 1933's "The Private Life of Henry VIII," 1946's "Henry V," 1964's "Becket," 1968's "The Lion in Winter," 1969's "Anne of the Thousand Days," 1998's "Elizabeth" (which lost to "Shakespeare in Love")

Co-producer of 'Narnia' films dies at 39 in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Perry Moore, a co-producer of "The Chronicles of Narnia" film series and the author of an award-winning novel about a gay teenager with superpowers, was found unconscious in his bathroom and died later at a hospital, police said. He was 39.

His father, Bill Moore, told The New York Daily News in Saturday editions that an initial autopsy was inconclusive. "I have no clue what happened. The examiner said he was in good condition," Bill Moore said. His father and friends said he suffered from chronic back pain.

Moore was found unconscious in the bathroom of his Manhattan home Thursday, and doctors couldn't save his life, police said. The cause of death will be determined by the city's medical examiner, but no foul play was suspected.

Moore had a varied career in television and in film, as producer, screenwriter and director. His 2007 novel, "Hero," won the Lambda Literary Award for best novel for young gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender children or adults.

Moore, who was gay, said in an in-

and 2006's "The Queen."

Actors as British monarchs have fared a bit better, with lead-acting wins by Charles Laughton in the title role of "The Private Life of Henry VIII"; Katharine Hepburn as Henry II's captive queen, Eleanor of Aquitaine, in "The Lion in Winter"; and Helen Mirren as Elizabeth II in "The Queen." Judi Dench won a supporting Oscar as Elizabeth I in "Shakespeare in Love."

Best-actor front-runner Colin Firth as the current queen's father, George VI, is expected to join the winner's list Sunday, though Helena Bonham Carter as his wife, the future Queen Mother Elizabeth, is a longshot for supporting actress.

Losers far outnumber winners: 13 of the 17 actors nominated for playing a British king or queen have lost (there would be one more loser if we throw in Vanessa Redgrave as best actress in 1971's "Mary, Queen of Scots," whose title character schemed but failed to take the English crown from Elizabeth I).

Two actors lost twice for playing the same monarch—Peter O'Toole as Henry

II in "Becket" and "The Lion in Winter" and Cate Blanchett as Elizabeth I in "Elizabeth" and its 2007 sequel, "Elizabeth: The Golden Age."

Laurence Olivier lost twice for playing two different kings in Shakespeare adaptations, 1946's "Henry V" and 1956's "Richard III." Kenneth Branagh also lost for his 1989 version of "Henry V."

Henry VIII has gone one-for-three at the Oscars. After Laughton's win, two other actors lost for playing the same role—Robert Shaw as supporting actor in "A Man for All Seasons" and Richard Burton as best actor for "Anne of the Thousand Days" (the latter film also was a best-actress loser for Genevieve Bujold in the title role, as one of Henry VIII's queens, Anne Boleyn).

Before their wins, both Dench and Mirren lost at the Oscars for other roles as British queens. Mirren lost the supporting-actress race as Queen Charlotte in 1994's "The Madness of King George," for which Nigel Hawthorne also lost for best actor in the title role. Dench lost for best actress as Queen Victoria in 1997's "Mrs. Brown."

hoped to create a gay superhero who was not, he said, a supporting character, victim or token. "I decided I would write the definitive coming-of-age story of the world's first gay teen superhero," he said.

It was the death of one of the first prominent gay heroes in the Marvel Comics universe, Northstar, at the hands of X-Men's Wolverine, that spurred him to finish the book. "He slaughtered the X-Men's token gay hero," Moore said. "I found this story be disturbing, to say the least."

He compiled a list of gay characters in comics to show how most were "minor characters, and victims who are tortured, maimed and killed."

Moore was born in Virginia Beach, Va., and majored in English at the University of Virginia, according to his website. He started his career in television at MTV and VH1, then worked for "The Rosie O'Donnell Show." He later joined Walden Media, the company that produced the films based on C.S. Lewis' "Narnia" books.

A dogged Aussie collective lands at the Oscars

JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The Australian filmmaking collective Blue-Tongue Films has been around since 1996, when a handful of friends made a short that turned out good enough to warrant persistence.

Next Sunday, they'll enjoy a moment in movies' biggest spotlight: the Academy Awards. Among the nominees of Hollywood veterans and glamorous movie stars is Jacki Weaver, whose supporting actress nod represents not just her fine, disarming performance in David Michod's crime film "Animal Kingdom," but the ascendance of Blue-Tongue films and its tenacious gang of mates.

"We'll all be watching it from wherever we are," says Nash Edgerton, one of the group's founders, speaking from Berlin. "It's a long shot, but awesome that it got that far."

It's been a remarkable year for the seven members of Blue-Tongue, which isn't a production company or a business arrangement of any kind, but a loose group of friends who look to each other for help and inspiration.

Edgerton, a 38-year-old seasoned stuntman of many blockbusters, formed Blue-Tongue with his actor brother, Joel, and Kieran Darcy-Smith—the two of whom had just finished drama school. Their ranks have grown to include Michod, Luke Doolan, Tony Lynch and Spencer Susser, the lone American among the Aussies.

Edgerton's gritty noir "The Square" came out last year to strong reviews. Doolan's short "Miracle Fish" was nominated at last year's Oscars. In April, Susser's "Hesher," a film starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Natalie Portman about a heavy-metal drifter that befriends a grieving boy, will be released. Darcy-Smith recently wrapped shooting on his feature directorial debut, "Say Nothing," a psychological thriller.

"It's an incredibly positive time," says Darcy-Smith, speaking from an editing bay in Australia. "There's been a lot of interest. It's opened wider and more international doors. There's a healthy kind of pressure that that brings."

The members of Blue-Tongue are typically scattered across the credits of their films. "Animal Kingdom" was written and directed by Michod, co-starred Joel Edgerton and Darcy-Smith, was edited by Doolan and includes special thanks to Nash Edgerton.

They aren't bound by any aesthetic mantra, but their films do share a gritty realism, particularly in suburban sprawl environs and genre movie templates. They constitute one of the most exciting, hard-earned movements in years. Film Comment hailed them as "the Next New Wave."

In "Hesher," a father and son (Rainn Wilson and Devin Brochu) are shocked out of a stupor when a tattooed, often-shirtless maniac (Gordon-Levitt) moves in. Similarly, Blue-Tongue seems to be injecting a dose of energy into movies—a good, deserved smack in the mouth.

"I think the worst thing that anyone can ever say about your work is, 'Eh, it was OK,'" says Susser, speaking from Los Angeles where he's prepping the film's release. "You want people to be passionate in one way or the other."

It all started with 1996's 8-minute "Loaded," which proved to the Edgertons and Darcy-Smith that they—despite having no film school training—could succeed.

"It just inspired us to keep playing, and we found that we played together well," says Darcy-Smith. "We were bouncing ideas off each other. There was a great collaborative spirit. We're also all really good mates. ... We've become, really, family."

Shorts have remained the group's training ground, a way to get their names out there, prove themselves capable to investors and get familiarized with directing. Doolan and both Edgertons recently completed new shorts, including one by Nash, "Bear," that's a sequel to his darkly comic "Spider," which was paired theatrically with "The Square."

"Everyone is continuing to keep it up, keep the ball in the air," says Edgerton, who's currently writing a script for a film he expects to be bigger in scope than "The Square."

More than anything, Blue-Tongue functions like a support system. They share each other's scripts, seeking constructive feedback. When one succeeds, it only makes the others more confident that they might, too.

"It was never something we talked about," says Susser. "It was this group of friends that liked making films—kind of our hobby."

Susser, 33, fell in with the Edgertons while they were all working on "Star Wars: Attack of the Clones." Though he grew up in California, he counts himself as a "wannabe Aussie." He filmed his short "I Love Sarah Jane" in Australia, and is working a script of a feature-length adaptation.

Blue-Tongue's kinship is partly based on their shared interest in portraying emotional authenticity—whether it comes in a crime drama like "Animal Kingdom" or a Zombie film like "Sarah Jane."

"I really like stuff that's honest," says Susser. "Whether it's fantasy or crazy or really silly, I like stuff that feels grounded. I feel like we all have that in common."

It's an inspiring tale: a group of filmmakers, thousands of miles (kilometers) from Hollywood, striving for years to build themselves into feature film directors, many of them arriving with their first movies at once.

"After years and years and years of plugging away at home and getting into a lot of debt," says Darcy-Smith. "It's great now that it's finally come to what I always thought it would: a film."

With movies in the pipeline and scripts in the works, Blue-Tongue may be just getting started.

"I'm keen to see what everyone does with a little more money and doing something a little bit bigger," says Edgerton. "Now, at least, some people will return our call."

Taylor Swift relishes Asian success

HONG KONG (AP)—Wrapping up the Asian leg of her world tour, Taylor Swift is relishing her growing international appeal as the singer-songwriter steadily gains fan outside the U.S. with her combination of confessional lyrics and country sound.

Shortly before taking the stage at Hong Kong's Asia-World-Expo arena late Monday, the 21-year-old received a long line of Universal Music executives from across Asia who presented her with platinum sales plaques. Swift's previous album, "Fearless" sold 400,000 copies in the region. Her latest release, "Speak Now," is also performing well, achieving platinum status in Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia and the Philippines.

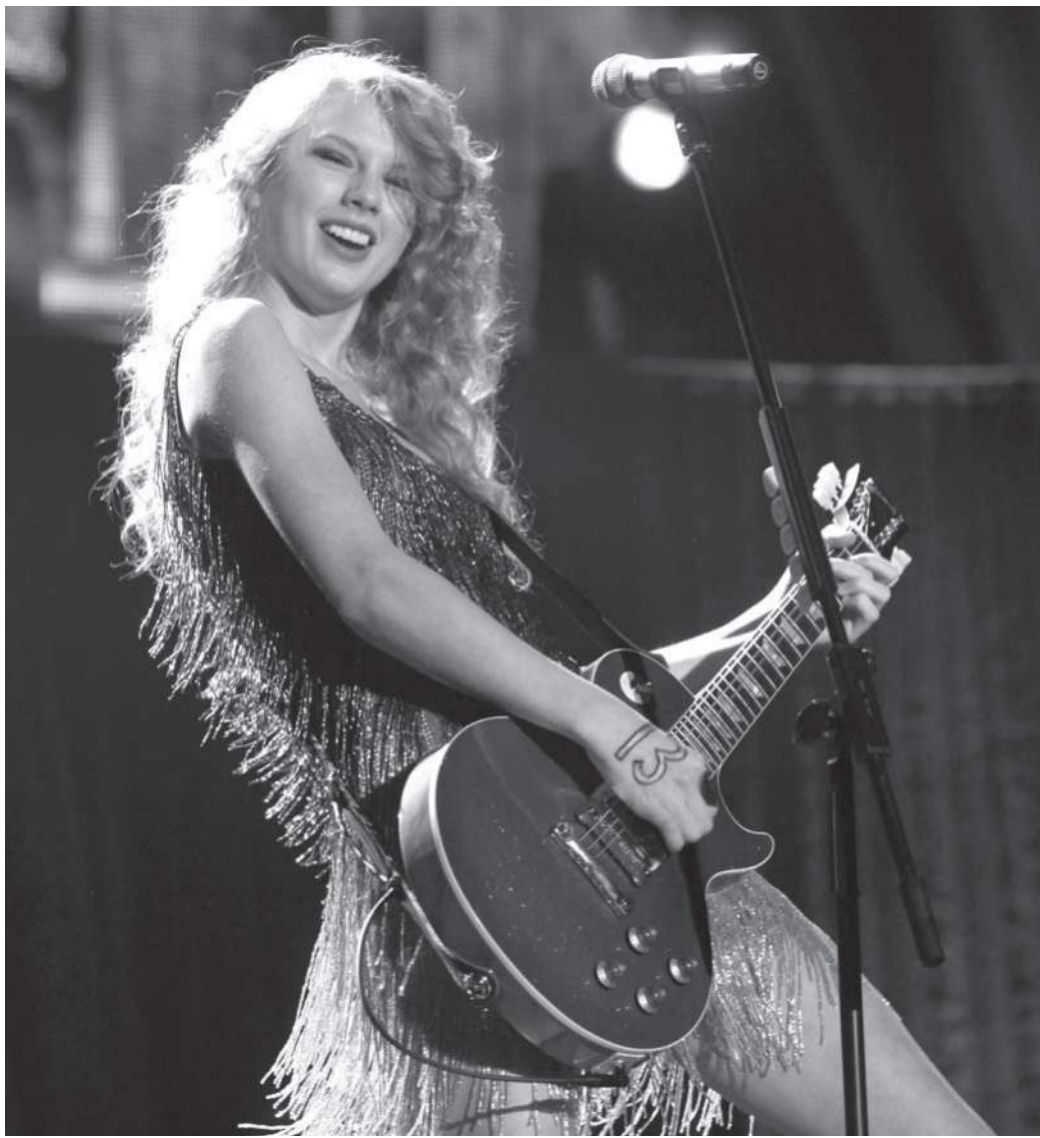
"Some of them were really surprising to me. I wasn't aware of every single certification we have in Asia. It really blew my mind," Swift told The Associated Press backstage.

It's testimony to the growing crossover appeal of the country star on foreign shores. Having just released her third album in October, the four-time Grammy winner can already boast a considerable global following. The initial Asian leg of Swift's "Speak Now" tour has taken her to Singapore, Seoul, Osaka, Tokyo and Manila.

Swift said she's proud to be an international ambassador for country music.

"I love country music, and I love the fact that it's being accepted all over the world. That is so exciting for me," she told the AP.

"I have heroes who have taken country music internationally. You have Garth Brooks and Shania Twain. They really did a lot for country mu-



U.S. singer-songwriter Taylor Swift performs in Hong Kong as part of her Asia tour Monday, Feb. 21, 2011. AP

sic because they brought an awareness to it. The fact that I have the opportunity to do that too and go to other countries where I've never been before and play music - it's what I've always dreamed of doing."

"The international success has been the most beautiful and pleasant surprise. Being welcomed by countries that speak a different language from the language I speak is an honor," Swift said.

"It really touches me every

time I look down and I see all the fans singing the words to my songs, having written the lyrics, knowing that they connect in countries where English really isn't spoken by everyone. It means the world to me."

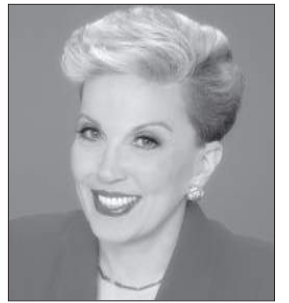
It hasn't been all work and no play on the Asian tour. Swift said she has taken in the local cuisine and sites. She visited Singapore Chinatown, visited a beach in Hong Kong and shopped and was dressed up as a geisha in Tokyo.

She said she relaxes on tour by ordering room service and watching the TV show "Friends." She also uses down time to compose—"Speak Now" was almost entirely written during her previous tour, she says.

Swift next returns to the U.S. before kicking off the European leg of the tour in Brussels on March 6. The American leg begins on May 27 in Omaha, Nebraska. She will tour Australia and New Zealand later in the year.

Past same-sex relationship is tricky topic of conversation

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am a woman who, after nearly 25 years, is back on the dating scene. Those years were spent in a same-sex relationship. I just happened to fall in love with a woman. I have custody of our child from the union.

I do not put a label on my sexual orientation. I would like to meet a nice man and pursue a new relationship. How do I let interested parties know about my past? Being back in the dating world is difficult enough without having to explain an unusual history.

Dear Abby

BACK IN THE GAME IN ARIZONA

DEAR BACK IN THE GAME: The subject of where you have been for the last 25 years is bound to come up early in a relationship—or even before there's a relationship. My advice is to just be honest. And may I be frank? Some men will find the idea that you were with another woman titillating, while others may even find it a challenge. So don't jump into anything too quickly.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a certified massage therapist who attended a reputable massage therapy school. I worked hard for my certification because my goal is to relieve people of chronic pain issues.

When I'm asked what I do for a living, men start making jokes that imply I'm the type of masseuse who massages naked men for their sexual pleasure. I find this more than a little insulting. They think they're being funny, but I don't!

How can I discourage these innuendos? Should I ignore them and hope they get the point from the expression on my face?

OFFENDED THERAPIST IN MICHIGAN

DEAR OFFENDED: When someone makes an offensive comment, I see nothing wrong in letting that person know he has "rubbed" you the wrong way. Tell him you studied hard to be in a healing profession—that the innuendo is insulting and not funny, and you're not "that kind" of girl. Period.

DEAR ABBY: My hubby is a smoker. He was one when we married. He promised he'd quit before our wedding; it didn't happen. When I became pregnant, he promised again he would stop. Didn't happen.

Our son is now 2 years old and "Tom" still sneaks out to smoke, and I am sure he does at work, too. His mother passed a year ago from cancer—she was a longtime smoker, and his father has now been diagnosed with cancer. (He's a longtime smoker, too.)

I am terrified for Tom and our family. What can I do other than threaten, cry, etc. to get him to stop?

KELLY IN TEXAS

DEAR KELLY: You're right to be worried and you have my sympathy. Smoking cessation programs are available through the American Cancer Society, but work only if the smoker is willing to avail himself. Nothing you can do will "make" your husband give up tobacco. He has been nicotine-saturated from birth. Smoking is the most preventable cause of death in the U.S. If the fact that both his parents were diagnosed with cancer probably from smoking—hasn't convinced him to stop, frankly, nothing will.

You can protect your son by insisting that Tom not smoke in the boy's presence—and when he's old enough, that he understands that his father has an addiction and CANNOT stop, as a warning not to start. Then pray the "family tradition" isn't passed down yet again.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Shakira, Pique hold hands while out on the town

Buju Banton still awaiting verdict in cocaine case

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Grammy-winning reggae singer Buju Banton is still awaiting a verdict in his federal trial on cocaine conspiracy charges.

After deliberating for most of Friday, the jury in Tampa couldn't reach a verdict. Courts are closed Monday for the President's Day holiday, so jurors will reconvene Tuesday.

The 37-year-old Banton, whose given name is Mark Myrie, was on trial for conspiring with two other men in setting up a drug deal in December of 2009. His album "Before the Dawn" won a Grammy last week for best reggae album.

This is Banton's second trial. A jury deadlocked in his first trial last year. If convicted of all the charges, he faces up to life in prison.

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—New photos show Colombian singer Shakira and Barcelona soccer player Gerard Pique holding hands as they enter a restaurant in the Catalan city.

Rumors that the two were an item surfaced during last year's World Cup in South Africa. Shakira recorded the tournament's official song, "Waka Waka," and Pique was one of several players who appeared in the video.

At the time, Shakira denied having a relationship with Pique, 10 years her junior.

The photos could be seen Monday on a Facebook page dedicated to Shakira that lets any user post images or comments.

The 34-year-old Colombian announced last month that she and Antonio de la Rua, son of former Argentine President Fernando de la Rua, had ended their 11-year relationship.

FC Barcelona's Gerard Pique attends a training session at the Joan Gamper training camp in San Joan Despi, Spain, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2011. AP



Police probe death of baby born to Oprah student

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Police are investigating whether to file charges after the death of a newborn baby born to a student at Oprah Winfrey's elite South African high school.

In a statement Monday, the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy said it was awaiting the outcome of the police

investigation into the birth last week, and providing counseling for students in the wake of the latest controversy surrounding the school outside Johannesburg.

Soon after Winfrey's school opened in 2007, a dormitory supervisor was accused of trying to kiss and

fondle students. The supervisor was acquitted of sexual assault charges last year.

Winfrey has vowed to give bright young women opportunities in a society where they are handicapped by conservative traditions as well as the poor schools that are a legacy of apartheid.

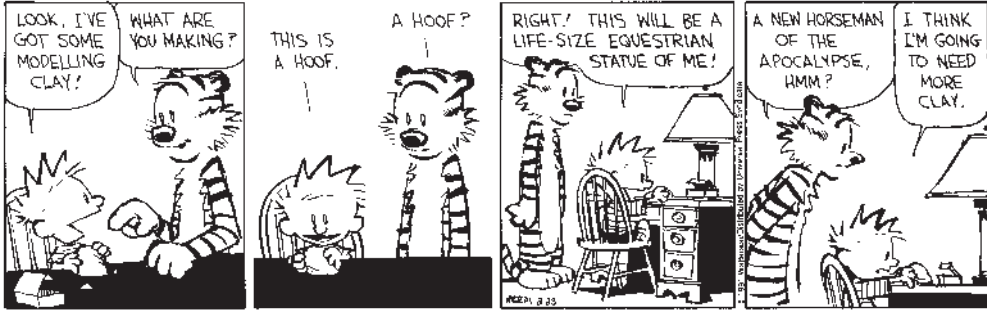
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

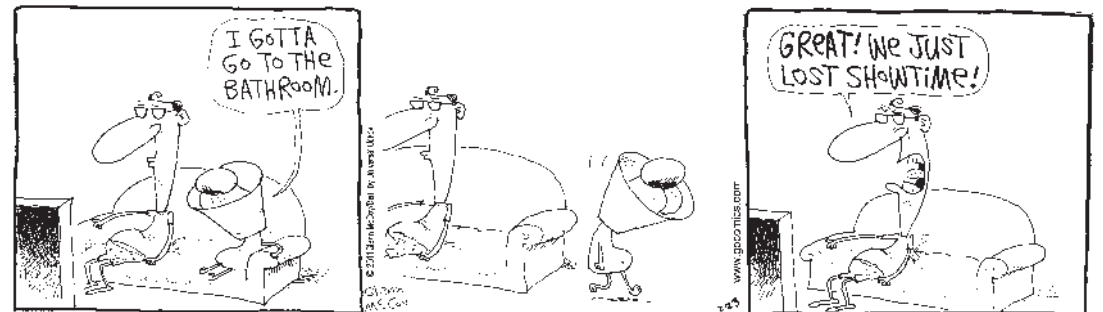
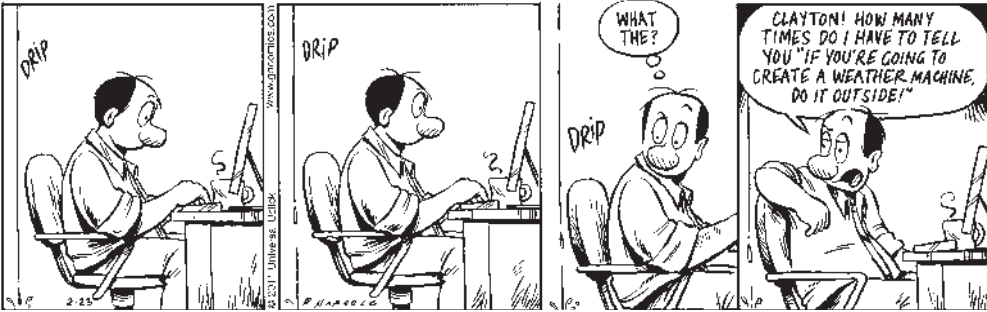


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Writer Kingsley
5 Hot tub
8 Adam and Eve's son
12 Dog owner's chore
13 Work unit
14 Burning heap
15 High score in darts
17 Ogler's look
18 Apportion
19 Kitchen rack fillers
21 "Memory" musical
24 Greek vowel
25 Hoist
28 Beams of light
30 Agree silently
33 — Khan
34 "Likewise"
35 Rotation duration
36 Thither
37 Fine
38 Information unit
39 —
41 Christmas refrain

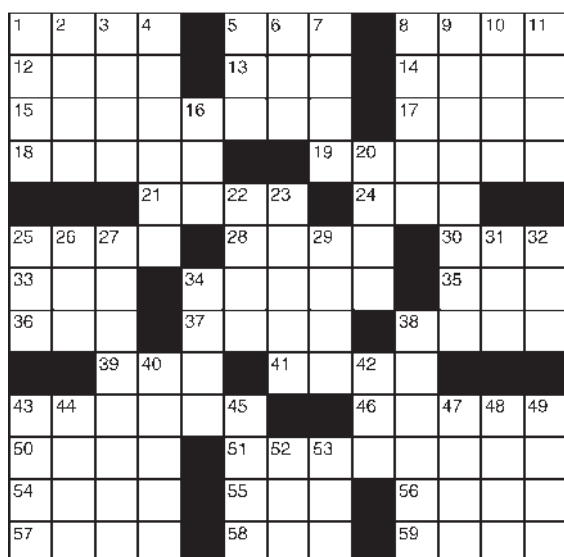
DOWN

1 "Mamma Mia" group
2 Man-handle
3 — do for now
4 Cheap merchandise
5 Witness
6 Crowbar
7 Census statistics
8 Gymnastic maneuver
9 Something superficially attractive
10 Genealogy chart
11 Divorce settlement portion
16 Depot (Abbr.)
20 Mexican money
22 "Star —"
23 Beelzebub
25 Funny Leno
26 Back when
27 Wonka creation
29 Vacillate
31 Feedbag morsel
32 Coloring agent
34 Slam-dance
38 Trumpet sounds
40 "— of Two Cities"
42 Early bird?
43 Lily variety
44 Stop up
45 Recedes
47 Caprice
48 "... baked in —"
49 Molt
52 Exist
53 Uncivilized

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-23

RAMS BRA ZITI
IDEA EAT EDEN
MONUMENT PLAN
COP OCHERS
CAMFO GRAY
HUES MONTREAL
ETA FATES USA
MONARCHY FHAI
BARS ELOPE
PAPAYA AGO
EPIC MONORAIL
FSAU FVF IIKS
REFS SAW DEED



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dakota Fanning, 17; Kristin Davis, 46; Patricia Richardson, 60; Peter Fonda, 71

Happy Birthday: Cooperation and assistance must be given, especially where financial, medical and legal matters apply. You will be able to incorporate what you have learned throughout your life to obtain a better position, greater satisfaction and personal options that fit your lifestyle well. Your numbers are 2, 14, 22, 26, 32, 37, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may need to incorporate damage control into your discussions with both personal and professional friends. There is no need to cause upset or to overreact. A calm approach will help you find solutions so you can pick up where you left off. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A partnership will improve if you have a heart-to-heart talk. You will learn a valuable lesson if you offer your services or help to a charitable organization. Make a promise to treat with pride even the smallest job you are asked to do. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Concentrate more on work and less on your personal problems. You will sort out any personal problems you face if you distance yourself from the situation, so you can clearly see who's at fault. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have plenty of opportunity to learn, make new friends or pick up additional skills. Don't sit around waiting for others to motivate you. Make the first move and you'll show everyone that you are a self-starter. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You must do the math before you decide to make a big ticket purchase or sign up for something costly and not likely to bring the results you expect. Your best opportunity will come from what you can learn and apply to your everyday life and your professional future. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You need to get out more and to make some new friends or at least nurture the relationships that are important to you. Socializing will enhance your love life and show that you are willing to participate and contribute. Your frugality will be appreciated. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Concentrate on your ideas and creative plans for the future. Getting together with people who inspire you will bring positive results. Be careful not to upset someone who depends on you or you will face uncertainty, leading to more worry, stress and responsibility. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Love is on the rise and participating in trips, events or home improvements that help you bring about change should be your intent. Your energy and creative insight will help you close a gap that has slowly been growing between you and someone you care about. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your thoughts to yourself and your mind on how you can help others. It's what you give that will spare your being criticized. Arguments are apparent with friends, relatives and neighbors if you are pushy or disrespectful or you exaggerate. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Professional advancement can be yours if you put in the extra effort and share with superiors your suggestions to improve efficiency. Bring the past into the future by sharing your experience. Love is in the stars. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Reconsider what's being offered or taking on a responsibility that someone asks you to deal with. Emotional matters will escalate if you refuse to pitch in and help a good cause. Action is required. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Now is your chance to pursue something you've wanted for a long time. Pull in favors and show your dedication. Set up meetings and contracts and deals can be written up and signed. It's up to you to make things happen. ★★★★★

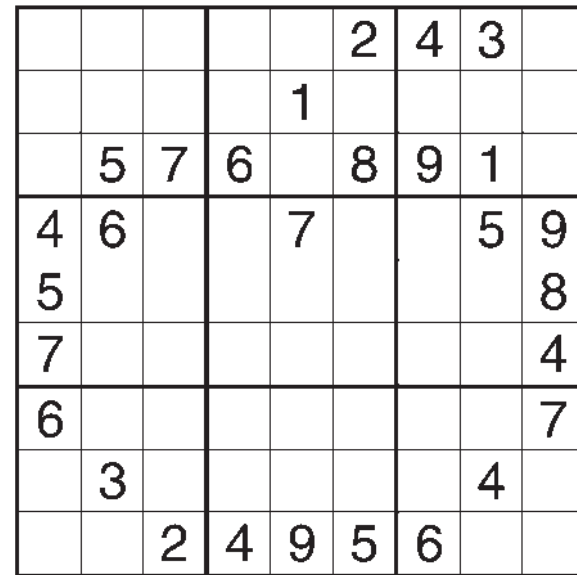
Birthday Baby: You are compassionate and willing to help the underdog. You are an impulsive and pushy doer.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



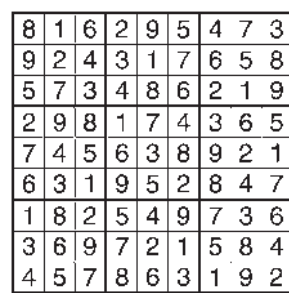
Difficulty Level ★★

2/23

©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

'INCEPTION'

Solution: 7 letters



© 2011 Universal U.C. www.wonderword.com Join us on Facebook 2/23
Arthur, Asleep, Chance, Children, Christopher, Cottillard, Coveted, Dangerous, Deep, DiCaprio, Ellen, Empire, Enemy, Executing, Heist, Human, Idea, Inherit, Invasion, Love, Marion, Mind, Nolan, Page, Philippa, Plant, Players, Rare, Redemption, Risk, Rule, Sedated, Subconscious, Tadashi, Team, Technology, Vulnerable, Warner Bros, Yusuf
Yesterday's Answer: Western
Treasure can be won by the sea. Deep, dark, and mysterious. A 10x10 grid with 100 squares. The grid is filled with letters, with some letters already placed and others missing. The grid is labeled 'Yesterday's Answer: Western'.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR SALE

Construction corporation with good records and a well known restaurant business for sale. For more information please call 483-1123.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

As Lito-4 BR, 2 1/2 bath house for rent. Unfurnished and utilities not included. Call 788-7109 for more information.

3K CORPORATION
is looking for
CIVIL ENGINEER
Preferably with 5 years experience.
Submit your resume at 3K Bldg. located in San Vicente.
For more information, call 235-2222.

WHATZIT Solution: Check all the right boxes

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div>✓</div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div>✓</div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div>✓</div>

Find today's solution in this section

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

WHATZIT? © 2011 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Universal Uclick.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC.
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

JAVILI GENERAL PARTNERSHIP,	CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff	NO. 10-0282
-v-	
GUANG L. JIN,	
Defendants.	

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty (20) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to the LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

Dated this 16th day of FEBRUARY, 2011.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC.
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

BANK OF SAIPAN,	CIVIL ACTION
Plaintiff	NO. 02-0409
-v-	
MARTIN DLG. SAN NICOLAS,	
Defendants	

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on (2), I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set for the hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: A leasehold estate in 006 T 106, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 926 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 006 T 04, the original of which was recorded September 28, 1983, as Document No. 18301, at the Land Registry, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 18, 2011, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at the Courthouse in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of sale.

Dated this 10th day of FEBRUARY, 2011.

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE
Auctioneer

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

DEPUTY CLERK
Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Superior Court is seeking highly motivated people for the positions of Deputy Clerk, Office of the Clerk of Court.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: This position is under the general supervision of the Presiding Judge and the direct supervision of the Clerk of Court or his/her designee. The employee performs work in accordance with established policies, practices, and court procedures. The following are required duties: receives, reviews, and records documents filed for hearings; provides data entry of pleadings onto the court's case management system; provides daily updates of pleadings and other caseload information for assigned judge through the court's automated processes, including but not limited to the document imaging and online filing system; inspects physical and electronic documents submitted to court, including looking for accuracy, proper form, and conformance with court order or court rules; assesses fines, receives and accounts for monies, issues receipts, prepares deposit slips and provides disbursements per court order or requests from customer service window; prepares and maintains physical and electronic file folders for court cases, including tracking of all pleadings associated with individual cases files; serves as a courtroom clerk when court hearings are in session, including but not limited to swearing in of witnesses, logging of all admitted exhibits, tracking all phases of a hearing on an index sheet for the recording counter, operating the electronic recording equipment, and providing continuous monitoring of the recording equipment to ensure the integrity of the record; and, performs other related duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS: A high school degree or equivalent plus a minimum of three (3) years related work experience. Strong preference for those with work experience in the legal field. Candidates must possess a valid CNMI driver's license and current police and traffic clearances.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: These are ungraded positions appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. Starting salary will be \$16,000, commensurate with experience.

INTERESTED PERSONS should submit their resume and complete OPM application to the Director of Courts, Tracy M. Guerrero, PO Box 502165, Guma' Hustisia/limwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. For additional information about these positions and detailed job descriptions, see <http://www.justice.gov.mp> or call (670) 532-9422 in Rota, 236-9716 or 236-9700 in Saipan, or 433-3410 in Tinian. Resume and application must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 4, 2011.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Please call 235-NEWS

Source: Knicks, Nuggets agree on Anthony deal



NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony is getting his wish, and the New York Knicks are getting a second superstar.

The Knicks have agreed to a trade with the Denver Nuggets for Anthony, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on Monday night.

The deal that would end the season-long trade saga involving Denver's All-Star forward and send him to his desired destination can't be finalized until Tuesday during a conference call with the NBA office. Assuming it goes through, it puts Anthony alongside Amare Stoudemire in a potentially explosive frontcourt—at a heavy cost to the Knicks.

The person provided no other details of who was in the deal, which was first reported Monday by the Denver Post. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment publicly on the trade.

The Post, citing a league source, said the Knicks would send Wilson Chandler, Raymond Felton, Danilo Gallinari, Timofey Mozgov and a 2014 first-round draft pick to the Nuggets, who would get additional picks and cash.

Along with Anthony, New York would acquire Chauncey Billups, Shelden Williams, Anthony Carter and Renaldo Balkman, according to the Post.

ESPN later reported it was a three-way deal with Minnesota, which would acquire Eddy Curry and Anthony Randolph from the Knicks for Corey Brewer.

The Nuggets have explored an Anthony trade since he refused to sign the three-year contract extension worth nearly \$65 million they offered him last summer. They appeared on the verge of sending him to the New Jersey Nets on multiple occasions, but the Knicks increased their offer enough to land Anthony, who was believed to prefer New York all along.

The Knicks would hope he could be in uniform Wednesday when they host



Denver Nuggets' Carmelo Anthony talks to reporters during media availability for the NBA All-Star basketball game in Los Angeles, Friday, Feb. 18, 2011.

the Milwaukee Bucks.

Denver coach George Karl said there was "some sadness" to the deal, which sends away not only Anthony but Billups, the popular Denver native. But he added it was "time to move on, reinvent."

Anthony led the Nuggets to the playoffs in each of his first seven seasons in Denver after winning a national title at Syracuse as a freshman and had them positioned for another playoff run this year. But Denver advanced out of the first round just once in that time.

He stood to become the headliner of the 2011 free agent class, but didn't want to risk free agency knowing a new collective bargaining agreement could cost him millions. But once he refused the extension with the Nuggets - plus put his Denver mansion on the market last year - the

Nuggets' new front office team of general manager Masai Ujiri and team president Josh Kroenke had to begin trade talks so they wouldn't risk losing him and getting nothing in return as the Cavaliers did with LeBron James and the Toronto Raptors did with Chris Bosh last year.

There were persistent rumors Anthony wouldn't take the extension if traded to the Nets, which was a prerequisite for them agreeing to a trade. He instead gets his apparent wish to join a Knicks team that is in sixth place in the Eastern Conference and in position for its first playoff berth since 2004.

But they'll make their postseason run without the core of the team. Felton, Gallinari, Mozgov and Chandler were four of New York's top six players, and there is some thought the Knicks gave

up too much to get Anthony, a sensational scorer headed to a team that doesn't necessarily need more scoring.

However, the Knicks felt they couldn't pass on the opportunity to land a 26-year-old superstar once he became available. Assuming he extends with the Knicks, Anthony and Stoudemire would be under contract for four more seasons, though the uncertain salary cap situation could wreck New York's plans to be spenders over the next two summers.

The Nets wanted Anthony, hoping the Brooklyn native would be the face of their franchise when they open their new Barclays Center in 2012. But though he never publicly confirmed the speculation that he wouldn't have extended with the Nets, he did note Fri-

day during the All-Star weekend in Los Angeles that the Knicks were further along after acquiring Stoudemire—his good friend—last summer.

Anthony met with both Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov and Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan over the weekend and hoped there would be a resolution before he returned to the Nuggets. That indeed happened—he was excused from practice Monday so he could remain in California to appear on Conan O'Brien's show.

The Nuggets made out well, considering they could have lost Anthony for nothing in the summer. The Nets' offer, centered around rookie Derrick Favors and draft picks, would have meant a rebuilding situation, while the players they acquire from New York could keep them in postseason contention in the Western Conference. The Nuggets host Memphis on Tuesday night.

Karl said he'll miss Billups, a hometown favorite and consummate professional who helped Denver reach the Western Conference finals in 2009-10, when the Nuggets nearly eliminated the eventual champion Lakers.

"I think Chauncey will go down as one of the greatest winners," Karl said. "His record of seven or eight conference finals is, I mean, that's incredible. I think that's who he is, that's what he stands for. He brought one of them to us. Last year we had a miserable ending. I think there's many people, including myself, that will be sad for Chauncey. I know he loves Denver and we love him, but things happen. There's decisions that have to be made."

"I'm 100 percent behind the decision we made, even though it will be dangerous and there won't be the veteran point guard back there," Karl added. "Felton, I thought was having a great season this year. But I think Ty (Lawson) and Felton are going to have a great challenge to live up to what Chauncey has given us in past years."

Asked who his starting point guard would be, Karl said, "Probably Ty," then got into his maroon SUV and drove away.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The All-Star game was never supposed to be Kobe Bryant's highlight at Staples Center this season.

Not when his two-time defending champion Los Angeles Lakers were expected to have a shot at a third in a row. Even after LeBron James and Chris Bosh joined Dwyane Wade in Miami, the Heat agreed with Michael Jordan that the Lakers were the favorites until somebody beat them in June.

These days, June basketball doesn't even look like a sure thing for the Lakers.

They stumbled into the All-Star break with three straight losses, capped by a defeat in Cleveland against a Cavaliers team they beat by 55 earlier in the season.

But nobody is counting Bryant's bunch out yet.

"They are the champions. We understand and know the second half of the season, they are going to play even better and when it comes time to win, they are going to be the team to beat," Wade said.

Wade's Heat might have the team to do it, and the Boston Celtics would love another shot at their biggest rivals

Can Lakers get it together, host NBA finals, too?

after losing in seven games last June. But first, the Lakers have to prove they're the best in the West before they worry about who's tops in the East.

They are currently third in the conference, 8 1/2 games behind NBA-leading San Antonio and 2 1/2 back of second-place Dallas. But the Lakers looked shaky late last season before putting it together, and they're confident they can do it again.

"It has been like a lot of hot and cold this season, a lot of contrasts and looking for a level of consistency," All-Star forward Pau Gasol said. "I feel that we can do that."

Bryant won his fourth All-Star MVP award Sunday, scoring 37 points and grabbing 14 rebounds in the Western Conference's 148-143 victory over the East. He looked poised for the stretch run, with a couple of soaring dunks, one over a chasing James, that showed there's plenty of bounce left in his sometimes aching legs.

The season resumes Tuesday with the expected conclusion of the Carmelo Anthony trade situation. A per-

son with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Monday that the Knicks and Denver Nuggets had agreed on a blockbuster that lands the All-Star forward in New York.

The deal, first reported by the Denver Post, could be finalized Tuesday after the completion of a conference call between the teams and the NBA office.

Anthony's season-long saga has sometimes overshadowed the news on the court, but the focus will be back there once the deadline has passed.

Even if the Lakers get things figured out, the road to the NBA finals might go through San Antonio. With a 46-10 record and health they haven't enjoyed in recent years, the Spurs seem capable of winning a fifth title with Tim Duncan after they struggled just to reach the postseason in 2010.

"Last year we had 50 wins the whole season and now we have 46, so no one really expected it," All-Star Manu Ginobili. "We have always been healthy and nobody misses a game, and we got the experience

and we got a better bench."

While they cruise out West, Boston leads Miami by percentage points in the East, with Chicago two games back. The Celtics are 3-0 against the Heat, but haven't been able to keep centers Shaquille O'Neal and Jermaine O'Neal healthy to surround their four All-Stars.

"We are not where we want to be. I mean, I know it sounds crazy, still at the top of the East and we have the best record, but I don't think we are near where we want to be," Paul Pierce said. "We battled a lot of injury. We battled inconsistent play over the last couple of weeks. We are just fortunate to be in the position that we have. We haven't been healthy all year long. I'm just waiting to see what's going to happen in the next couple of weeks when we get about 95 percent healthy, to see what's really going to happen."

The Knicks are sixth in the East, in position to make their first playoff appearance since 2004. They lurk as a dangerous lower seed with Anthony joining fellow All-Star Amare

Stoudemire in a potentially explosive frontcourt.

"The team that we have now, we are not too bad," Stoudemire said Sunday. "We are making our playoff push, but you never know how things may end up here in the next few days."

The MVP race could come down to Chicago point guard Derrick Rose or James, the two-time winner who figured his move to Miami counted himself and Wade out this season. But he's been so good that he believes he's back in the conversation, especially if the Heat continue to recover from their rocky start and reach the potential that was expected of them.

"For the first two-thirds of the season, we played some good basketball. For the last third of the season, we have to understand that we cannot afford to take a step backwards and we have to keep moving forward," James said. "We have to continue to get better, because there are teams out there that's better than us right now."

Maybe the Lakers can still prove they are one of them.

"We are looking forward to it," Bryant said. "We are up for the challenge."

NFL, union exit from 4th day of mediation



WASHINGTON (AP)—Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Charlie Batch emerged with a smile and a positive outlook Monday after attending a fourth consecutive day of federally mediated negotiations between the NFL and the players' union.

"Things are going well right now," said Batch, a member of the NFL Players Association executive committee. "We'll see how things progress over the next couple days."

He didn't discuss any details.

NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith left at 6 p.m., about seven hours after Monday's session began. NFL executives departed minutes after Smith. None would comment on the negotiations; Smith deflected questions by joking about the wintry

weather, including snow forecast for Monday night.

After months of infrequent—and sometimes contentious—bargaining, the league and union have been communicating face-to-face for a total of more than 25 hours since Friday. The sessions are taking place at the office of George Cohen, director of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, a U.S. government agency.

The league and union agreed to try mediation in a bid to find common ground as time runs out before the current labor deal expires at the end of the day March 3. The union has said it believes team owners want to lock out the players as soon as the next day, which could threaten the 2011 season.

The sides met for about six hours on both Friday and Saturday, and another

Marlins say Philliesmania doesn't bother them



JUPITER, Fla. (AP)—Edwin Rodriguez knew something was up, because his phone would not stop ringing.

One call. Then another. And another. By the Florida Marlins' manager's count, about half of the clubhouse dialed him up when the Philadelphia Phillies won the Cliff Lee sweepstakes this winter and made an already-strong rotation perhaps the most anticipated in baseball history.

Yes, the Marlins noticed.

"The guys called me, just to let us know, 'We're going to be ready,'" Rodriguez said.

Say this for the Marlins: They don't lack confidence.

It's an annual rite: Florida shows up for spring training, and some other team is the talk of the NL East. It's more true this year than perhaps ever, with most eyes around baseball centered on Philadelphia. The Marlins don't mind, and even before the first pitch of exhibition season ball has been thrown, they're already convinced they can hang with anyone.

Even the Phillies.

"I think it's fair to say the Marlins have been under the radar before, maybe even after we won it all in '03," Florida President Larry Beinfest said. "We don't spend a lot of time talking about it. I don't think our players think about it, either. There's a winning atmosphere here. I think there's a winning tradition here. No matter what our obstacles are, we're going to try to compete and win."

In the NL East, easier said than done.

Optimism is omnipresent each spring, of course, but there's more than a bunch of clubs with false hope in the Marlins' division. The Mets and Nationals—who finished behind the Marlins last season—both figure to be better. Atlanta won 91 games in 2010 and had baseball's best home record on the way to the NL's wild-card.

Then there's the Phillies. Cy Young winner Roy Halladay, three-time All-Star Roy Oswalt and 2008 World Series MVP Cole Hamels are holdovers, and Lee was baseball's most-coveted pitcher this winter who wound up taking less money to return to Philadelphia's rotation. And lest anybody forget the lineup that still has Ryan Howard, Chase Utley, Jimmy Rollins and Shane Victorino.

It's easy to see why Philliesmania

reigns, and why the Marlins seem relatively anonymous.

"I think we're used to not getting the attention," Marlins right-hander Josh Johnson said. "I think we like it. It's part of being the underdog. We don't need the attention. We don't want the attention. I don't, personally."

Even before Lee went to Philadelphia, the Marlins had plenty of ground to make up in the NL East.

Florida was 17 games behind the Phillies a year ago and went 5-13 against the division champions, the highlight—or lowlight—being Halladay's perfect game in Miami last May.

"Everybody's talking about the Phillies, Cliff Lee, Halladay, Hamels, Oswalt," Marlins right-hander Anibal Sanchez said. "Those guys, they have a good rotation. They have everything. We have a younger staff and they have great pitchers, but we are too. So we go pitch-by-pitch, day-by-day, do what we have to do. They won't win all their starts."

Of Florida's 13 losses to the Phillies in 2010, five were by one run, including Halladay's perfect game.

The way Florida sees it, that means they're right there with one of baseball's elite clubs. When Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria spoke last week about the looming season, he didn't speak specifically of how his club matches up with Philadelphia, but said he considered Florida to be a playoff-caliber team in 2011.

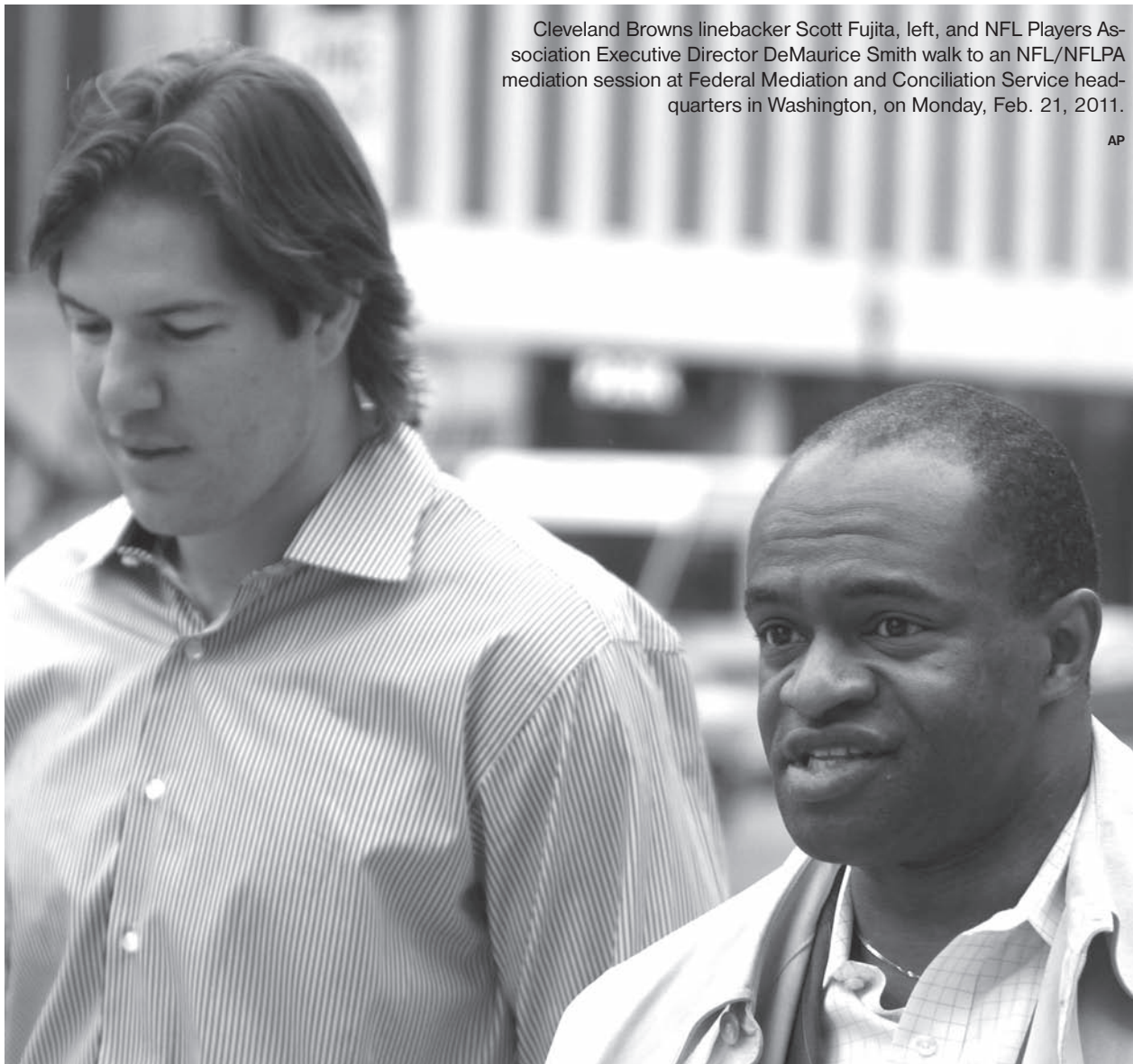
"I match my guys up with anybody," Loria said.

When the Phillies landed Lee, they were able to beat out bigger-money offers from the Yankees and Rangers. Lee took about \$30 million less over the life of his deal to sign with Philadelphia, saying it was the best way for him to chase championships.

Beinfest took notice, as did those players who called Rodriguez.

The Phillies are the standard in the NL East, and they're clearly Florida's target.

"I usually don't talk about other teams, but they're packing their stadium, they're run very well and they have a very good team," Beinfest said. "So I wasn't necessarily surprised. Maybe I was surprised as all you guys that he was going somewhere else and ultimately he ended up there. But that's out of our control. Now we need to go out and try to battle."



Cleveland Browns linebacker Scott Fujita, left, and NFL Players Association Executive Director DeMaurice Smith walk to an NFL/NFLPA mediation session at Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service headquarters in Washington, on Monday, Feb. 21, 2011.

AP

eight hours Sunday. Cohen announced Thursday the groups agreed to the mediation, which is not binding but is meant as a way to spur progress. The plan calls for several days of negotiations with Cohen present.

"Any time that you talk," Batch said, "you have to feel better."

He and two other current players—Cleveland Browns linebacker Scott Fujita and New York Jets fullback Tony Richardson—left Monday at 5 p.m., getting into cars that were heading to the airport. It wasn't clear whether other players would take their spots with the union's negotiating team in Washington.

The NFL's group began arriving at 8 a.m. Monday, and Commissioner Roger Goodell walked in alone shortly after 9 a.m. The NFL's group included general counsel and lead labor negotiator Jeff Pash and outside lawyer Bob Batterman.

Batterman represented the NHL when it lost its entire 2004-05 season to a lockout.

Smith got to Cohen's office at about 11 a.m., entering with Fujita. Former players Pete Kendall and Sean Morey also were part of the union contingent Monday, along with lawyers Richard Berthelsen and Jeffrey Kessler.

The league and union went more

than two months without any formal bargaining until Feb. 5, the day before the Super Bowl. The sides met again once the next week, then called off a second meeting that had been scheduled for the following day.

The most recent CBA was signed in 2006, but owners exercised an opt-out clause in 2008.

The biggest issue separating the sides is how to divide about \$9 billion in annual revenues. Among the other significant points in negotiations: the owners' push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the pre-season by two games; a rookie wage scale; and benefits for retired players.



NFL BRIEFS

NFL says Lions committed tampering violations

DETROIT (AP)—The NFL says the Detroit Lions have violated the league's policy against tampering and ruled they must forfeit their upcoming seventh-round draft pick and exchange fifth-round picks with the Kansas City Chiefs. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell issued the ruling Friday for violations last year involving players under contract with the Chiefs. The fifth-round switch leaves the Lions with the 23rd pick in the round instead of the ninth. The league says the Lions commented publicly to the media about their desire to acquire Chiefs players under contract, and that they had impermissible contact with a player—or his agent—under contract with Kansas City. Either team can appeal. The Lions didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Duerson's kin donating his brain for research

NEW YORK (AP)—The family of

former Bears safety Dave Duerson has agreed to donate his brain for research into chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a condition linked to athletes who have sustained repeated concussions. Chris Nowinski at the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy at Boston University School of Medicine told The Associated Press he was contacted by a representative of the NFL Players Association on Friday, then worked with a representative of Duerson's family. "I can confirm that Mr. Duerson's family has agreed to donate his brain to the CSTE at BU School of Medicine," Nowinski said in an e-mail. Duerson died Thursday in Sunny Isles Beach, Fla. The Miami-Dade medical examiner ruled the death a suicide, Miami-Dade police spokesman Roy Rutland said Sunday. He confirmed that a gun was used but did not specify where Duerson shot himself. It's unclear why Duerson killed himself, although his company had been forced into receivership several years ago and he had

lost his home to foreclosure, former Bears coach Mike Ditka told the AP in a phone interview Sunday.

Titans hire Jim Skipper as new running backs coach

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Mike Munchak has filled yet another spot on the Tennessee coaching staff, hiring Jim Skipper as his running backs assistant. The Titans announced the hiring Friday a couple hours after introducing new offensive coordinator Chris Palmer. Skipper spent the past nine seasons coaching running back with the Carolina Panthers, including 2009 when both DeAngelo Williams and Jonathan Stewart became the first duo of teammates to each rush for more than 1,000 yards. Williams finished third in the NFL with a franchise-record 1,515 yards rushing in 2008. Munchak says he thinks Skipper has the ability to take Chris Johnson's game to a new level. Skipper has coached 23 seasons in the NFL with nine more in college.

Marquez may get third bout vs Pacquiao



MANILA—Top Rank promoter Bob Arum said Juan Manuel Marquez

Manny Pacquiao, right, hits Juan Manuel Marquez during their second bout in 2008.

AP



may get his wish for a third bout with ring icon Manny Pacquiao, but only if he can't get Floyd Mayweather Jr. to fight the pound-for-pound king.

Arum told the *Inquirer* "our priority has always been Floyd Mayweather. But if Floyd isn't available for one reason or another, Marquez would make a very, very good opponent in November."

Pacquiao is scheduled to defend his welterweight belt against Shane Mosely at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on May 7.

World Boxing Organization vice president for Asia and the Pacific Leon Panoncillo has been appointed as the WBO supervisor for that bout.

His next fight after that could be in November, with the world awaiting a Pacquiao-Mayweather tussle.

Arum revealed that he hadn't had "any contact with Floyd" but that Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones "sat us next to Floyd at the Super Bowl in his box and we had a wonderful afternoon."

Arum recalled that Mayweather "hugged me and we broke the ice at least socially so maybe something will come of that."

However, the astute pro-

moter disclosed "we didn't talk anything about boxing because it wouldn't have been appropriate."

However, Arum noted "that didn't stop actors like Jamie Fox coming over to us and saying 'Floyd talk to them about fighting Pacquiao' so let's see."

Marquez pulled out of a planned fight with former three time world champion Erik "El Terrible" Morales under the promotional arm of Golden Boy Promotions with whom Marquez is scheduled to discuss his expiring contract.

Arum earlier indicated that if Marquez went to Top Rank, it would be easier to negotiate a possible trilogy with Pacquiao.

In their first clash, Pacquiao dropped Marquez thrice in the opening round but the Mexican counter-punched his way to salvage a somewhat controversial draw after judge Burt Clemens admitted he had scored the first round incorrectly 10-7 when he should have scored it 10-6 for Pacquiao.

The rematch was even more controversial as Pacquiao won by a split decision with a knockdown in round four deciding the fight in the Filipino's favor. **(PDI)**

8 PROS

From Page 28

the men's division for the big trophy, a \$2,000 prize, and a travel package for their 2011 reappearance, but Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association is still waiting for confirmation of their return. Organizers are also waiting for the possible arrival of pros from Australia, Guam, and Papua New Guinea.

The 6'9" Baxter, a Ball State University graduate and finished third in the 1994 NCAA tournament, is a regular fixture in the Marianas Cup, teaming up with Jon Cramer in last year's competition. Baxter earned a silver medal in the 1994 Olympic Festival

and from 2003 to 2005 advanced to five Final Four in the AVP Tour. Baxter was the only player to make it to the semifinals with as many different partners.

Malibu, California's Strickland is the 2007 AVP Rookie of the Year. He is 30 years old, stands 6'9" and is also an avid surfer. Strickland played for Stanford University and won the Most Inspirational Player Award in 2003.

The 34-year-old Snyder played college volleyball at Long Beach State University and her team made it to the NCAA Final Four in 1997. She made the NCAA All-Big West team in 1996 and 1997. She also played professionally in Switzerland for a year. Snyder stands 6'2" and resides in

Huntington Beach, CA.

The 32-year-old Lewis played at Sacramento State University and left the school ranked second in career digs and fifth in kills. Lewis made the conference All-Academic team in her sophomore year and made the All-Big Sky team in her final two years. Lewis is starting her eight AVP season this year.

Before the pro-am tournament, the pros will play in exhibition matches this Friday, starting at 6pm. Pool play for the regular tournament begins at 8am on Saturday with the Top 16 teams in each division advancing to Sunday's double-elimination playoffs. Team-

mates of pros will be determined via raffle.

NMIVA is organizing the longest beach volleyball competition here through the help of Federation International DeVolleyball (FIVB), Marianas Visitors Authority, Delta Airlines, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Meanwhile, the Marianas Cup will also serve as the final leg of the CNMI Beach Volleyball National Team qualifier series. Currently, Tyce Mister and Chris Nelson have a chokehold on the top spot in the men's division, while Melody Matson and Amanda Clarkson are comfortably positioned atop the women's field.

HOOPAHOLICS

From Page 28

Sablan broke the last tie after drilling two free throws off an unsportsmanlike foul from Elgene Mangali. Sablan was driving hard to the basket when Mangali put up an umbrella like defense against the former and hit the Hoops wingman in the head. Satbahi contested Mangali just gave up a duty foul, but the referee saw otherwise and gave Sablan two free throws and possession for the infraction.

Sablan calmly sank the two charities, giving the Hoops a 75-73 lead, 45 seconds to go in the game. Then Satbahi regained possession after the Hoops missed on their attempt, but the former was tentative on its offensive set and failed to produce a basket.

Jun Pantaleon was left momentarily open, but did not pull up for a trey and opted for a pass to Glenn Aquino, who also hesitated first before going

for a 10-footer. Aquino faltered and Bart Demapan went for the rebound and a putback, but missed. To make matters worse for Satbahi, Demapan chased the ball down the baseline, but lost it, returning possession to Hoops, with six seconds left on the clock.

Satbahi gave up a quick foul and Sablan made two more free throws to put icing on the cake.

Earlier, Sablan almost caused the Hoops the win when he committed an unsportsmanlike foul on Mangali. Mangali drilled the pair of charities to put Satbahi on top, 71-70, and then Pantaleon made it a three-point led, 73-70, after connecting on a short jumper off Demapan's feed.

However, the Hoops refused to throw the towel, as Jawn Joyner hit a back-breaking triple to tie the game, 73-all, with less than a minute left in the heated match.

Sablan paced the Hoops with 24 points, while Joyner added 17. Mel Manibusan and James Villacrusis had 10 mark-

ers each. Ionis Rasa also had a quiet 10 points, stepping up for both Ponce. The older Rasa was ejected from the game midway in the first quarter after getting involved in an altercation with Satbahi's Rolly Paraiso, who was also thrown out of the match.

Rollers 63, IT&E Fundamentalists 46

In the first game, Rollers notched their second win after beating the IT&E Fundamentalists, 63-46.

Rollers saved the best for last, outgunning the IT&E Fundamentalists in the fourth canto, 21-11. Don Teregeyo nailed six markers in the payoff canto, Dom Reyes and Sheen Metran had four apiece, and Rollers drew one field goal each from three other players.

The IT&E Fundamentalists, who were behind by only four at the end of the third period, 38-42, were held to three field goals.

Manny Matagolai top-scored for Rollers with 21 points, while Reyes chipped in 12.

Tiger Lee paced IT&E Fundamentalists with 11 markers. IT&E Fundamentalists dropped from seventh to eighth place in the team standings with their 2-6 mark. Rollers moved up to seventh spot with their 2-4 card.

First Game

Rollers 63 – Matagolai 21, Reyes 12, Teregeyo 9, Metran 6, Hambros 5, Santos 5, Ogarto 2, Ulloa 2.

IT&E Fundamentalist 46 – T. Lee 11, Petersburg 9, Cooke 9, Babauta 6, Fox 6, Walsh 3, Jeon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-17, 24-24, 42-38, 63-46.

Second Game

Hoopaholics 77 – D. Sablan 24, Joyner 17, I. Rasa 10, Manibusan 10, Villacrusis 10, Palacios 6.

Satbahi 73 – Mangali 25, Abuel 19, Demapan 7, Pantaleon 6, Aquino 4, Palacios 4, Concepcion 4, Paraiso 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-14, 31-29, 51-45, 77-73.

which will combined squads from two divisions.

In 2013, Micronesia will have another U15 tournaments for East and West and also the U19 regional, while the U17 competitions will take place again in 2014 before the 8th Micronesian Games in Pohnpei.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

feature fighters from Saipan, Guam, and the United States.

Will "The Kill" Chope (1-1) of the U.S. will square off against Trench Tech's Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan (17-5) in a lightweight bout before the main event. Chope trains out of Dragon Muay Tai fight team in Orange Park, Florida.

Rites of Passage 10 will also have 16 other bouts, but pairings are tentative and subject for changes.

Zalaka's Joe Aldan and Trench Tech's Juan Langsangan will start off the show with a featherweight boxing match. Then independent fighters Danny "The Warrior" Santos and Joy Inaias Fred will be pitted in a lightweight bout.

Trench Tech's Josh Duenas will have his MMA debut against independent AJ "Tayo" Mettao in a featherweight brawl, while Zalaka's Ton Villagomez will face Trench Tech's Tavita Leuta in a featherweight kickboxing match. Another Trench Tech bet, Frank "The Crippler" Atalig will go toe to toe with Counter Shot's Leandro Dalalo in a bantamweight brawl.

A lightweight-grappling match is set between Zalaka's Harry Nekaifes and Kekai King of Guam's Barrigada BJJ team just before heavyweights Frank "The Tank" Faisao of Zalaka

and Marianas Elite's Derrick San Nicolas take over the cage.

Counter Shot's Eric Aguon will debut against Marianas Elite's Josh Cruz (1-2) in a 140-lb catch weight bout followed by a welterweight bout between Marianas Elite's Prescott Cabrera and independent fighter Juan Ogarto.

Then an exhibition youth boxing match is set between P.J. "Lightning" Litulumar and Trench Tech's Josenio "Little Bear" Alvarez before MMA action reclaims center stage featuring independent lightweight Ben Quinata debuting against Marianas Elite's MaiTai "The Charger" Charley.

Zalaka's Ben "Out of Gas" Duenas will be pitted against Trench Tech's Alverick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez in a featherweight battle, while a heavyweight clash comes next with Mylo "Alabama" Lassiter (1-0) taking on Zalaka's Moses "King Kong" Buekis (0-2). Trench Tech's Ningbo "Slice" Cepeda (2-2) will then face Kisetsu Warriors' Justin Salas in a light heavyweight fight.

An anticipated rematch will feature Marianas Elite's Derrick "El-Piligrino" Rangamar (4-8) and Trench Tech's Chris "No Luv" Laayug (6-1) in a featherweight battle and just before the two headliners, Trench Tech featherweight Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez (4-0) will either challenge UX's Trevon Jones or John Ilo.

MBT

From Page 28

technical committee meeting.

Only players born on or after June 25, 1995 will be eligible to compete in the MBT. Once a player played for one MBC member, he or she cannot suit

up for a different team without permission from MBC Executive Board.

Meanwhile, a separate MBT U15 competition will take place in Pohnpei this year for Easter Division teams from the Marshall Islands, Kosrae, Chuuk, and the host island-nation.

After this year's MBT U15

event, U17 players will have their own tournament next year. The Western Division teams will have a separate tournament for 17-and-under players with the CNMI hosting the meet. The Marshall Islands will host the Eastern tournament, while Guam will be the venue for the regional MBT,

Loyola, Ackerman rule mixed up doubles



Peter Loyola, left, serves during his and teammate Tammy Ackerman's, right, semis game against Gary Ramsey and Seyla Eda in the mixed up doubles event in the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic last weekend at the AMP tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Peter Loyola made a record in the 2011 White Coconut Tennis Classic after he and teammate Tammy Ackerman won the mixed up doubles championships on Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

The Loyola-Ackerman tandem swept Peter Loken and Emily Jones in the finals, 6-2, 6-4.

It was Loyola's third straight mixed up doubles title, winning the unique event since 2009 despite having different partners. In 2009, Loyola teamed up with Negahr Rastguiy and they beat Nicholas Son and Jean Bracken, 8-6. Last year, the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan instructor joined forces with Amami Sakano and they survived Colin Ramsey and Todd Montgomery in three sets, 6-4, 5-7, 10-8.

This year's mixed up doubles attracted 58 pairs, forcing teams to play in a 64-squad draw.

Loyola and Ackerman drew a bye in the lower half of the draw and then beat Ryan Kim and Ji Hoon Choi in the second round, 6-2, 6-0. Next up for the eventual champions were Bobby Cruz and S.H. Lee and Loyola and Ackerman won anew, 6-1, 6-0.

In the quarterfinals, Ackerman and Loyola were paired against Gary Ramsey and Seyla Eda and the first pair prevailed, 6-4, 6-3. In the semifinals, Loyola and Ackerman duelled two tough junior players in Carl Dela Cruz and Rafael Jones and won anew, 6-1,

7-5, to advance to the finals against Loken and Emily Jones.

Loken and Emily Jones were on the upper half of the draw and also gained a first round bye before beating the mother and son tandem of Maru and Moris Villanueva in the second round, 6-2, 6-2.

Emily Jones and Loken also topped Jake Lee and Colin Ramsey, 7-5, 6-4, and Lydia Tan and Rastguiy, 6-4, 6-3, to make it to the semifinals against Tim Goodwin and Chris Cajigan. In

the semifinals, Loken and Emily Jones needed three sets to thwart Goodwin and Cajigan, 4-6, 6-4, 10-6, and keep their winning run.

However, Loken and Emily Jones' streak ended in the finals when they bowed to Loyola and Ackerman in straight sets.

The win in mixed up doubles gave Ackerman her second championship trophy, as she also defeated Emily Jones in the girls U12 singles finals.

Ali'i Kamote's leads pacesetters in SEDA league

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Jonny's Bar & Grills Ali'i Kamote's and Dosukebe Boys are the frontrunners in the Tuesday B and C Kingfisher divisions, while D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Lucky Shots currently lead the C-Chichirika division after last week's games in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association League.

Ali'i Kamote's hold a slight edge in Tuesday B with its 13-2 record. Matua's of Oleai Beach Bar and Grill and Buddies' Bar & Grill's Black Pearls II are tied for second place with identical records of 11-4. Kamote's PeeJay Naval scored a 160 High-In last week.

Dosukebe Boys are the early frontrunners in the C Kingfisher division with their 13-2 slate. USSP Slow Hand (10-5) is in second and Gaia bar's World V (8-7) is currently in third place. Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Oh! MG's Angela Santos scored a 103 High-In.

Lucky Shots claimed an early lead in the C-Chichirika standings with their 14-1 card. Their sister team Sang (12-3) is in second, while Buddies' Chagi Fan (11-4) is in third.

TUESDAY B Salbahe Brothers 10, Mixed-Blood Shooters 5

At D'Pirates, both teams split a pair of 301 matches before Salbahe swept both wild cricket games. Salbahe then dropped both 501 contests, but regrouped to sweep all four cricket matches for the win.

Matua's 11, Samurai 4

At Oleai, teams split a pair of 301 matches and a game of wild cricket. Then Matua's swept both 501 matches and took three of the four cricket games for the victory. Matua's went on to add both Burma Road games and the final team 1001 match.

Ali'i Kamote's 13, GCC Carpenters 2

At Jonny's, home team Kamote's swept all four 301 matches, but then dropped both wild cricket games. Kamote's recovered to sweep the remaining nine games.

C KINGFISHER World V 8, Night Hawks 7

At Jonny's World V of Gaia Bar won three of the four 301 matches, a game of wild cricket, a 501 contest, a pair of cricket matches, and a Burma Road game for the win.

Dosukebe Boys 13, Oh! MG 2

At Naked Fish, Dosukebe Boys won three 301 matches and a game of wild cricket and swept both 501 contests and four cricket matches for the victory.

Slow Hand 10, IT&E Anies Imuza 5

At USSP Peleliu Club, both teams split a pair of 301 matches and a game of wild cricket. Then Slow Hand swept both 501 contests and finished strong, winning the last three games.

C CHICHIRIKA Chagi Fan 11, Black Pearls 4

At Buddies, Chagi schooled sister team Black Pearls right out of the gate. Chagi won three 301 matches, swept both wild cricket games, ruled a 501 contest, and took three of the four cricket games for victory.

Team Sang 12, VFW One Shot 3

At D'Pirates, Sang won three 301 matches, swept both wild cricket games, and took a 501 contest to build a commanding lead. Then Sang swept all four cricket matches for the win.

Lucky Shots 14, Gaiana C 1

At Gaia, Lucky dominated Gaiana C, winning all but one game of partners wild cricket. Lucky's Matriona and Mario Lisua combined for 11 wins.

Cal dominates February roll-offs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Ron Cal returned to bowling action with a bang, ruling the Saipan Bowling Association-Budweiser Queen of the Lanes February Tournament held over the weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Cal, who missed the January roll-offs, joined both days of the February tournament and on each day recorded the best scores to clinch this month's tiara.

On Saturday, Cal collected a four-game total of 666 pinfalls for a 46-pinfall lead over Gloria Omechelang, who tallied 620 pinfalls in the first day of the roll-offs. Cal returned in the second day of the tournament on Sunday and eclipsed her own record, tallying 725 pinfalls. Omechelang also bowled on Sunday, but carded only 640 pinfalls for another runner-up finish. Yho Villavicencio, who won the January roll-offs, completed the Top 3 with her second-day score of 612 pinfalls.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ron Cal, right, and Robert Talavera show their cash prizes after winning the February roll-offs last weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

After taking the lead in the first day of the tournament, Cal picked up where she left off, knocking 208 pinfalls in Game 1 on Sunday. She then logged 182 in Game 2 and closed out the last two games with 179 and 156 pinfalls for an average of 181.25 pinfalls.

Also keeping his winning form was

Robert Talavera, who prevailed in the King of the Lanes roll-offs.

Talavera just came from a perfect game more than week ago before topping last weekend's tournament with his Day 1 score of 837 pinfalls. Rounding out the Top 3 were Percy Omechelang and Raymond Zapanta, who earned 811 and 772 pinfalls, respectively.

Talavera nailed a 26-pinfall lead over Omechelang after a strong finish in the opening day of the tournament. He had 237 and 246 pinfalls in Games 3 and 4 to add with his 179 and 175 in the first two games for an average of 209.25 pinfalls. Omechelang also tallied more than 200 pinfalls in the last two games (215 and 213), while Zapanta knocked down more than 200 pins only once, notching 216 in Game 1.

In the Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes Tournament, M.J. Aldan cruised to his second monthly win after outclassing four other youth keggers.

Aldan had a four-game total of 575 pinfalls, winning by 17 pinfalls over John Taisacan. Greg Sablan finished third with his 519 pinfalls, followed by Toby Verdager (502), and Ryan Batac (333).

Masters 35A league coaches meeting tomorrow

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Master Basketball Federation of the NMI is calling on all coaches fielding teams in the 2011 35A Masters Basketball League to attend a meeting tomorrow at 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Details of the upcoming league will be discussed at the meeting.

The 35A masters caging is set to start on April 6 at the Ada gym. Last

season, IT&E won the inaugural 35A championship and is expected to be back for a title defense.

This season, MBFNMI is offering entrance fee and uniform packages for \$550. Teams that pay the fee will be given preference for the 17 available colors from Island Apparel. Uniforms will be distributed on first pay first serve basis; no reservations. Checks should be made payable to Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI at P.O. Box 504614, Saipan MP 96950.

Meanwhile, MBFNMI would like

to remind players and coaches that the 2011 membership renewal fee of \$5 is due on April 6. All players and coaches must be members to compete in MBFNMI-sanctioned leagues.

MBFNMI is also planning on organizing a 50A division competition, however official details of this league will be released after confirmation.

Any interested teams or players for both divisions can contact mastersbasketball_670@yahoo.com for more information or visit their Facebook page for additional news and updates.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of SEDA Tuesday B League frontrunners Ali'i Kamote's pose for a photo after their 13-2 home win over GCC Carpenters last week at Jonny's Bar & Grill.

Source: Knicks, Nuggets agree on Anthony deal

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Loyola, Ackerman rule mixed up doubles

PAGE 27

28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

8 pros expected in Marianas Cup



Jenn Snyder, left, and Paul Baxter, seen here in action in last year's Marianas Cup, will be among the eight pros competing in this weekend's tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eight pros from the U.S. and Japan are expected to compete in this weekend's 19th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball Pro-Am Tournament on the sand courts of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The list includes last year's women's champions Megumi Murakami and Remi Sudoh of Japan. The duo went undefeated in five games to top the 16-team women's field and win the coveted cup, \$900 and a travel package to return for their 2011 title defense. Murakami and Sudoh won last year over fellow Japanese pro Mitzumi Ozaki

and Hiroyo Kaneda

Joining the defending women's champions in this year's Marianas Cup are colleagues Kentaro Asahi and Katsuhiro Shiratori and U.S. pros Paul Baxter, Billy Strickland, Jennifer Snyder, and Angela Lewis.

Japan's Daisuke Matsumoto and Jenki Hatabe topped

See 8 PROS on Page 26

MBT U15 caging set for June

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Micronesian Basketball Confederation will have its first tournament since its revival last year through a 15-and-under competition in Palau this June.

Dubbed as the 2011 Micro-

nesian Basketball Tournament U15 Western Division, the youth caging will take place at the Palau National Stadium from June 20 to 24. The tournament will feature men's and women's teams from the host, the CNMI, Guam, and Yap.

Palau Basketball Federation will be organizing the five-day tournament and PBF had already released guidelines for

participating teams.

Each team must pay the \$250 bond on or before March 20. Of the \$250 bond, \$100 will be paid to the host country for the tournament expenses and \$50 for the annual MBC membership fee (per country). The balance from the bond will be refunded to participating countries within two weeks after the completion of

the tournament. Each country will be responsible for its own accommodation and transportation arrangements.

Each team is allowed to submit a preliminary list of 20 players, three coaches, and two officials on April 20. By May 20, the list should be down to 15 players, two coaches, and one official. Then confirmation of the 12-player roster, two coaches, and one official should be made on June 20 during the

See MBT on Page 26

Hoopaholics snap skid; Rollers win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Hoopaholics' woes finally ended.

The Hoopaholics eked out a 77-73 win over Satbahi in the second game in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to snap their four-game losing skid.

Dave Sablan canned fourth

clutch free throws in the home-stretch to lift the Hoopaholics to a close win, the team's third in seven games. The Hoops started the nine-team league with a 2-0 record before dropping their next four matches.

The skid almost continued before Sablan stepped up and the Hoopaholics got the breaks in the end to return to the win column.

See HOOPAHOLICS on Page 26



The Hoopaholics' Dave Sablan, left, is hemmed in by Satbahi's Elgene Mangali during the closing seconds of their game in the UBA/Docomo caging on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Saipan vs Guam in main event of ROP 10

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Trench Tech's Jason Tarkong will go up against T.J. Cruz of Guam's Kisetsu Warriors in the welterweight finale bout. Tarkong is looking to improve his 9-2 record in his return to the octagon after two years of absence, while Cruz aims to keep his perfect MMA record, which currently stands at 2-0.



Tarkong

Next month's ROP 10 will be Trench Tech's first offering for the year and the event will

See SAIPAN on Page 26